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Nate Kogan's designer socks are just one example of Toronto-based gifts that will wow your sweetie this Valentine's Day. To see more gifts for anybody having a love affair with Toronto, including Kogan's darn socks, see page 7. DAVID VAN DYKE/METRO

Campaign targets gender wage gap

Equality. 'Bachelorette degree' aims to raise awareness that female graduates still make 20 to 30 per cent less than men

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD
rosemary.westwood@metronews.ca

If the term "bachelorette degree" has some Ontario students riled up, Jen Carter isn't apologizing.

The slogan is at the crux of a new campaign aimed at fighting pay inequality among the sexes — and making sure the long-talked-about wage gap is in the minds of young people.

Just launched by the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance, the initiative is already getting pushback from some students who say the centrepiece perpetuates gender divisions.

Carter, the alliance's president, isn't bothered by those concerns. The fictional just-for-ladies degree is a parody of the way workplaces treat the educational qualifications of women versus men when it comes to pay.

"It's just the right amount of controversy to get people thinking, 'Well my degree isn't worth less to me, but it is worth less to society, and how can I challenge that?'" she said.

Quoted

"If you walked up to a 12-year-old girl ... they would not see this as an issue."

Jen Carter, Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance president, on need to raise awareness about wage inequality

Getting the message across

- The Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance has taken a punchy approach to its gender pay-gap campaign, creating an infomercial around the idea of "Ontario's new Bachelorette degree."
- It features "testimonials" with female students offering selling points like this one: "By taking advantage of the Bachelorette degree discount plan, graduates can expect up to 30 per cent off their future earnings."

The pay gap isn't something her peers, and those younger than her, think enough about, Carter said.

"What young people believe is it's 2015, we have gender equality, but that's really not the case."

A university-educated woman in the public sector will make 82 cents for every dollar made by a male counterpart, according to a report released last month by the Fraser Institute. In the private sector, it drops to 73 cents.

Women in Ontario make 74 cents for every dollar a man earns, according to the Pay Equity Commission of Ontario, which provided a grant to fund the alliance's campaign. "When you graduate, society tells you the piece of paper you have, just because you're a woman, is worth less," Carter said, adding women get "less return on investment."

In addition to educating women, Carter hopes the campaign encourages them to fight for equality in the workforce and negotiate higher pay.

"Armed with the knowledge that there are people in the workforce in comparable jobs to you that are making 30 per cent more allows you to want to push the envelope," she said.

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Dufferin Mall parodied

Instagram. Fake account says it's 'Funded by the Eye Brow Threading Union'

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD
rosemary.westwood@metronews.ca

Dufferin Mall's newest Wine Rack employee has blue hair, and the shopping venue has issued a smackdown against Yorkdale, bragging: "We have Swiss Chalet!"

It's some of the latest news out of the "Dufferin Mall Official" Instagram account, which is filled with jabs at #bloordale, #yuppies and, of course, a bid to #shutdownyorkdale.

Only thing is, Dufferin Mall has absolutely nothing to do with the tongue-in-cheek parody account that's rolling out barbs at the shopping centre and its competitors across the city.

The real Dufferin Mall stepped up in defence of itself on Tuesday after an especially punchy Instagram post. The mall sent a tweet warning shoppers about the imposter.

"It appears we have some very loyal fans, with a sense of humour, in the social media realm," Mira Kopanarov, the mall's head of marketing, wrote in an email to Metro.

Lines

Two good lines from the Dufferin Mall parody account:

- "@yorkdalestyle, You have been trying to copy us since the beginning. We aren't scared of you. Our customers would rather shop at @galleriamall than spend a cent at your dirt mall!"
- "We have had lots of DMs asking about where Island Ink really is. Well it's right here silly!"

wine rack
dufferinmallofficial
Follow
Today's check out is the [redacted]. it's right across from the weird kiosk [redacted] where the eyebrow threaders get their sick tattoos. Wine rack always has the best stuff! And funny people working there. There is a new girl with blue hair. Makes me want to die my hair some kinda crazy!
Hahaha you need to follow this insta, for when you miss being a #dufferinmallist
This insta
Told you it's getting all fancy up in there

The parody "Dufferin Mall Official" Instagram account has amassed more than 400 followers for quirky posts like this introduction to the Wine Rack. METRO SCREEN SHOT

Kopanarov added that there's nothing wrong with a sense of humour, "but some of the comments are definitely disrespectful, being the reason we had to notify people."

The parody account, with 400 followers for a dozen posts, is vastly more popular than Dufferin Mall's real Instagram, which has about 20 followers for 83 posts.

Dog's final frolic captured by a stranger

Laura Tucker with her dog Brandy at Kew Beach. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

She didn't know it would be their last walk.

Nearby, a stranger with a camera captured the moment — a moment that Laura Tucker will forever cherish.

As the sun dipped behind the city last Tuesday, Tucker took her rambunctious 15-year-old dog on a routine trip to nearby Kew Beach. Brandy, her border collie mix, pranced through the snow as Tucker watched on in the biting cold.

As Brandy frolicked, Tucker struck up a conversation with a man who was out walking a little puffball of a Shih-poo while snapping pictures of the park's crisp expanse of snow, and downtown's distant towers bathed in warm orange light.

The next morning, Brandy was having trouble walking. Friday, Tucker brought her to the vet. The news was bad: Brandy's pancreatitis had flared up. There was little that could be done to help her. Tucker made the painful decision to put Brandy down.

In her grief, Tucker remembered that last walk and the man with the camera. On Saturday afternoon, she posted a public theaternote on her Facebook wall — a murmur into the void of the Internet — hoping to have a last glimpse of her beloved dog.

"I am looking for the man who was at Kew Beach on Tuesday at sunset with his dog and camera," the emotional note read. "That was my last walk on the beach with her. If you happened to take a picture of us walking or playing in the sunset, even if we are just a speck, please contact me. Rest in Peace, Brandy, my sweet spirit."

When Tucker logged onto Facebook on Monday, she was astounded to see that the post had been shared more than 500 times. Within the reams of comments there were three from a man named Ryan Phillips. He posted two photographs. In one of them, Tucker and Brandy stand as small silhouettes in the snow-blanketed park.

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'Using a bathroom is a human right'

Gender neutrality. Student group says Ryerson's been 'slow going' on setting all-gender washrooms

GILBERT NGABO
gilbert.ngabo@metronews.ca

A group representing transgender students at Ryerson University is calling for every building on campus to have an equal number of male, female and all-gender bathrooms.

"We believe using a bathroom is a human right," said Markus Harwood-Jones, coordinator of the university's Trans Collective group.

Harwood-Jones, who also goes by "Star" because Markus is a "very gendered" name, said Ryerson is a progressive campus but can do better.

University spokesman Michael Forbes said there are about 43 unisex bathrooms already available on campus and a committee is working on recommendations to address students' concerns.

University of Toronto's downtown campus has at least one all-gender washroom in each building, according to information from the campus' facilities office.

Trans Collective, meanwhile, argues there are many buildings at Ryerson where not even one such washroom is available.

Members of Ryerson University's Trans Collective put up "all-gender" signs outside washrooms in one building but the group were told to take them down and wait for approval, Markus (Star) Hardwood-Jones, right, said. CONTRIBUTED

Quoted

"Many buildings on campus have only male and female bathrooms, which transgender people don't necessarily feel comfortable using."
Ryerson student Markus Harwood-Jones

"All we are hoping to do for now is to have some signs that read 'all-gender bathrooms' instead of just male or female," Harwood-Jones said.

"We reached out to the administration last year, but the process has been slow going, and we're constantly told to wait."

The group put up "all-gender" signs outside washrooms in one building but was told to take them down and wait for approval, Hardwood-Jones said.

"And in the meantime, transgender students are left in mental and physical pain, having to use bathrooms that don't make them feel totally safe," he said.

By end of this year, the group hopes to have all-gender washrooms in the Student Campus Centre and the Victoria Building, two of the most frequented spots on campus.

The Sunny side of Marilyn

When Sunny Thompson was first asked to portray Marilyn Monroe, she adamantly refused.

"The idea of being compared to Marilyn Monroe, that's an unfair request," says Thompson. "She is, iconically, the most beautiful woman of our time, the ultimate sex goddess, a beauty queen."

It was after researching the life of the actress ("She was far more interesting than I thought") and learning that the play is entirely in the words that Monroe spoke and wrote, that Thompson took the plunge.

Toronto audiences will see Thompson's take on the woman who breathily sang, Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend in Marilyn: Forever Blonde running at the Elgin Theatre from Wednesday to Sunday.

Thompson joins a long list of actresses who've taken on the role of the woman who married two titans of her time — baseball great Joe DiMaggio and playwright Arthur Miller — consorted with U.S. president John Kennedy and dominated the box office with her persona.

Monroe was clever in the ways she attracted attention, Sunny says.

"When she didn't get an audition, she went home and died her hair a brighter shade of blonde," says Sunny.

And she was very serious about her work, Sunny adds.

"She was a career woman. She liked to push the envelope, to put people on edge. She was so much fun."

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Sunny Thompson as Marilyn Monroe in Marilyn: Forever Blonde. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Toronto teen looking to lift her way to a Pan Am Games berth

Weightlifting. Local 'girly girl' will compete at provincial, national championships in March and May

Maya Laylor is a shy, soft-spoken teen with a dainty handshake. But once she wraps her hands around a bar she can throw more weight above her head than NHL hockey players who loom like giants next to her.

The five-foot-four, 19-year-old can lift 88 kilograms over her head in the fluid, single-motion snatch and 108 kg in the two-phase clean and jerk.

Those Olympic-style lifts were enough to set four junior and senior provincial records last weekend at the Ontario WinterLift meet and move Laylor one step closer to her goal of representing Canada at the Pan Am Games this summer.

Those are also bigger numbers than some professional hockey players, including Montreal Canadiens defenceman P.K. Subban, who trains at her father's gym in the off-season, put up.

And while it's the pro athletes and business executives who pay the bills at his gym in downtown Toronto, Clance Laylor is thrilled that it is his daughter's name that tops the gym's record board.

Her 88-kg snatch comes ahead of Subban's 81 and her 111-kg clean tops his 100.

"He's got her on the jerk, though," Clance Laylor said pointing out Subban's four kilogram advantage on that one.

It was only three years ago that Clance Laylor promised he'd buy his daughter a pair of weightlifting shoes if she could snatch 35 kg and figured he wouldn't have to shell out for at least a month. But she did it right then and there.

Pan Am weightlifting hopeful Maya Laylor trains in her dad's Toronto gym on Tuesday. Laylor broke three records in one meet but has to crowdfund to keep her Pan Am dream alive. BERNARD WEIL/TORONTO STAR

Her father had been a sprinter and he encouraged her in track but "it didn't catch" and her mother pushed for swimming but when the competitive team came calling she declined. "I didn't want to mess up my hair," she said, laughing.

But, the self-described "girly girl" liked to work out and, at 16, she finally agreed to try lifting at her dad's gym.

"That was it, it was a wrap," he recalled. "I didn't have to push her she just wanted to come train more and more."

She was strong but, more importantly, she had a knack for picking up the technique that allows a lifter to get their body under the weight, quickly, and in the proper alignment.

Proper technique, which she spends four to six hours a day, six days a week honing, is what lets her out-lift men far larger and, in many ways, stronger.

As a strength and conditioning coach, Clance Laylor sees to very different sides of sport in Canada: professional hockey, which gets the most attention and has some of the highest paid athletes, and Olympic sport that falls well below the daily radar.

"It's frustrating," he said. "When it comes to Olympic summer sports we, as Canadians, get behind them when they win but for the day-to-day grind, the support is just not there."

Laylor has launched a crowd funding campaign to be able to afford to get to the competitions that will help her progress. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Governments spending more on seniors' care

Seniors are receiving three times more government money than those under 45, according to a new study, the first to tabulate total public spending by age group.

Depending on what province they live in, Canadians over 65 receive between 2.9 and 3.9 times more in social spending than those under 45, writes the report released Wednesday by Generation Squeeze, a campaign for generational equity.

"It's certainly not surprising that we spend more on seniors," said Paul Kershaw, a public health professor at the University of British Columbia and founder of Generation Squeeze.

"The key issue though is the relative gap in spending between age groups," he said.

In the coming months when government budgets will be crafted and made public, Kershaw expects politicians will be maintaining or increasing spending on retirees while saying that the cupboard is bare for younger Canadians.

"When we can find (funding) for one group and not for another, we're starting to prioritize in the world of politics in a way that we wouldn't prioritize in our homes and our families," he told the Star in a telephone interview.

While governments wish to develop pharmacare, there is less appetite for child care or education, he said. "We have to find the resources in our country to adapt for younger Canadians with the same degree of urgency that we are adapting to the aging population."

Canada's demographic challenges mirror those in advanced economies around the world. Aging populations will require more public money to support more pensions and health care use, all of which must be paid for by a shrinking number of working-age people.

Generation Squeeze isn't trying to create generational resentment, says Kershaw, just to ensure that we understand government spending now and are able to adapt it for a sound fiscal future going forward.

"We fundamentally want to safeguard the medical care and old age security on which our aging parents and grandparents are going to depend. But we don't know any aging parents or grandparents who want that safeguarding to come at the expense of adapting for their children and grandchildren," he said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

New labour

A study from a U.S. consulting group further dims the hopes of future employment for Generation Squeeze. Canadian businesses could greatly benefit from advances in robotics, lowering labour costs, particularly in manufacturing, says a Boston Consulting Group report.

- **Robot takeover.** Robots will replace human workers in some areas, pushing manufacturing costs down 16 per cent worldwide by 2025.
- **Savings.** In Canada the labour savings are estimated at 24 per cent by 2025, trailing only South Korea (33 per cent) and Japan (25 per cent). The U.S. and Taiwan are forecast to reach savings of 22 per cent.

5 local gifts for your Valentine

With Valentine's Day on the horizon, Metro has compiled a list of gifts for anyone who's having a love affair with Toronto — or just someone who lives here.

LUKE SIMCOE
luke.simcoe@metronews.ca

TTC Token Cufflinks

Spacing Store, $65

"We rarely think of style and public transit in the same sentence, but the TTC cufflinks by Jesse Zucker bring those two things together," said Spacing Magazine's Matthew Blackett. "Worst case scenario: You pop off a token when you're short transit fare."

Vega Long-Line Bra by Fortnight Lingerie

If you're going the lingerie route, Fortnight's underwear collection is entirely designed and manufactured in Toronto. "Fortnight's Vega Long-Line is the ideal Valentine gift because it is as much for the wearer as it is for the viewer ... if you're lucky," says brand manager Greg Denny.

Linea Intima, $110

Huely Socks

Huely.com, $20

These colourful socks feature designs by well-known Toronto street artists like Nate Kogan, SPUD1 and Lazerhorse. "Until lingerie for men is a thing, designer art socks are the next best thing," Kogan said.

TorontoLOVE Gift Pack

A veritable cornucopia of Toronto swag, Spacing's TorontoLOVE pack contains a keychain map, a notepad with a cover featuring a vintage city map, a mint-condition 1975 postcard booklet and a book by Patrick Cummins and Shawn Micallef showcasing some odd city architecture. "This gift pack is perfect for the Toronto-loving lover in your life — it features items you can use every day," Blackett said.

Spacing Store, $65

Be My King — or Queen — Cards

Urban Planning on Etsy, $4.50

Tell that special someone you love them using the iconography of Toronto's most famous streets. "Love is about the journey, not the destination," said the card's illustrator, Brenton Nader.

A weighty reason why Ontario has foreign-owned Beer Store

Quasi-monopoly. End of Prohibition gave Beer Store privileged position that leaves local, craft breweries with limited options

JESSICA SMITH CROSS
jessica.smithcross@metronews.ca

Ontario ended up with a foreign-owned quasi-monopoly in charge of our beer sales in part because of one very basic fact: Beer is heavy.

Last week, Torstar News Service reported that the private owners of Ontario's sole beer distributor have threatened legal action or NAFTA trade complaints if the province goes ahead with attempts to loosen the Beer Store's grip on our cold brews.

How the Beer Store has come to enjoy such a privileged position (granted under the LCBO's authority) has left many critics and beer enthusiasts scratching their heads.

And the answer takes us back to 1927 with the end of Prohibition in Ontario.

The Beer Store began in 1927 with 16 brewers each selling a few products. Today in Ontario, between big brewers and craft breweries, there are roughly 2,000 products on the market every year, says beer historian Jordan St. John. STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

Birth of a heavyweight

At the time, the government of the day wanted a system for legally selling intoxicating drinks, so it set up the Liquor Control Board of Ontario to handle spirits and wine. But the government didn't want to deal with beer, primarily because, as one expert says, it's heavy and difficult to store.

So the government turned to the few Canadian brewers that had survived the dry period — mainly by legally exporting beer to the U.S., despite it also being illegal to drink there — to set up their own distribution network.

"The intent, originally, was that it should be a co-operative, that every player in the industry should have a part of it. That was a reasonable expectation in the 1920s when there were only about 16 breweries left," says Jordan St. John, a beer writer and historian.

The brewers named it the Brewers' Warehousing Company. At the time it was only a distribution network, warehousing beer and providing it to licensed "mom and pop" stores, says St. John.

Meanwhile, the consolidation of the beer market began. In the 1930s, according to St. John, Edward Plunkett Taylor, an Ottawa tycoon and racing enthusiast, began buying up small breweries that had suffered during Prohibition under his company, Carling O'Keefe.

"They weren't really profitable. So what he did was consolidate everything under a single brand," he says, noting he did this over the course of two decades.

The move led to Ontario being home to only three big brewers: Molson, Labatt and Carling O'Keefe.

The co-op, owned by the Big Three, then bought up the independent beer stores and began selling beer on its own, changing its name to Brewers Retail, which still owns the Beer Store today.

"By 1959, there was an anti-trust competition lawsuit suggesting it was a monopoly," he says. "But it was thrown out of court with the argument that three companies are enough to keep (each other) honest."

But, with only three major Canadian brewers, the number of products available declined.

"Labatt Blue becomes a huge thing in the '50s and '60s. Molson Canadian is purpose-built to capture the national market," St. John says. "Ontario is really a lucrative market if you've got control of the distribution, controlling the retail stores where you can buy the product, and you've got enough advertising product to make people think they actually want the thing."

In 1978, the country reached a high point of beer consumption at 102 litres per person, says St. John.

Ownership moves overseas

Over the following years, ownership of the major companies shifted overseas: Labatt was bought by Belgian Interbrew in 1995 and is now part of Anheuser-Busch InBev. E.P. Taylor's Carling O'Keefe was sold to an Australian company before it was bought by Molson in 1989, and Molson merged with American-based Coors in 2005. In 1988, Sleeman's restarted after a half-century hiatus, became a major Canadian player in the beer market and was bought by Japan's Sapporo in 2006.

It was at this time Canadians' taste for beer began to change. Craft breweries started popping up in the mid '80s. They died down in the mid '90s, then saw a resurgence in the mid '00s that continues today.

Meanwhile, overall beer consumption dropped to about 64 litres per person per year, says St. John.

"People aren't buying cases of a single product, they're not buying Molson Canadian or Labatt Blue. They're buying maybe two cans of this indie craft brewery and maybe one from over here," he says.

There are about 165 craft breweries operating in Ontario and another 160 in planning stages, he said.

Suds of change

St. John says the Beer Store is now facing strong opposition,. The big brewers are selling relatively less — but small, local brewers are collectively selling more and creating jobs in small Ontario towns.

Many small brewers have complained about the difficulty they have getting their products in the Beer Store. Early this year, the Beer Store responded by announcing it would allow smaller brewers to have shares in the Beer Store and seats on its board.

But some, like St. John, believe that's not enough.

"It was designed to work in a different era," he says, noting in 1927 there were 16 breweries with about three or four products each. Today, there are roughly 2,000 products every year. "It's an anachronistic model that time has eclipsed."

The Beer Store only sells beer from brewers who can afford to meet its criteria, he says, whereas typical retail stores and beer stores in other jurisdictions choose products for quality that help build their reputation.

"But if you have a monopoly you don't have to do that. It's holding us back. It holds us back as an economic power in Ontario, it hold holds us back in terms of quality of product available to consumers."

How other provinces handle beer sales:

- **Manitoba.** Beer (and some wine) is sold at Manitoba Liquor Control Commission stores and private vendors licensed by the province. Spirits are sold solely through the MLCC.
- **B.C.** In B.C., alcohol is sold at private liquor stores and public B.C. Liquor Stores. It will be allowed in outlets within supermarkets after April 1.
- **Newfoundland and Labrador.** The Newfoundland and Labrador Liquor Corporation is responsible for managing distribution of alcohol, and permits corner stores to sell beer.
- **Alberta.** The privatization of all government liquor stores was completed in 1994. They are overseen by the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Corporation.

The cost of selling beer

To get into the Beer Store, outside brewers have to pay "listing fees."

- **$120,000.** The cost a non-owner brewery pays to sell a lager, an ale and a light beer, each in a six-pack and 12-pack format, in the majority of the Beer Store locations, according to a convenience store lobby group.
- **Changes.** In January, the Beer Store announced that small Ontario-based brewers who sell fewer than one million litres a year pay no listing fee when stocking two products at the five locations nearest to their brewery. Small brewers can list the same two products at any additional Beer Store at reduced fees. And brewers can swap a new or existing brand and replace it with a seasonal brand twice a year at no additional cost.

One twin receives part of dad's liver, the other awaits a donor

Michael Wagner, the father of Binh, left, and Phuoc, underwent an operation Tuesday to give part of his liver to one of his ailing three-year-old twin daughters. Phuoc and Binh both have Alagille syndrome, a genetic disorder that affects the liver, heart and other organs. A post on the family Facebook page says Phuoc's new liver "looks great," but notes the next few days will be "critical." The Wagners are still waiting for a donor for their other daughter. PHOTO: HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE; TEXT: THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vatican may be asked to repeal old Papal edicts

Human rights. Many say Catholic decrees of 1455 and 1493 allowed for the ill treatment of aboriginal peoples

Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission is weighing whether to ask the Vatican to repeal the Papal Bulls of Discovery that granted 15th-century explorers the right to conquer the New World and the "heathen" aboriginals.

Chair Murray Sinclair says the commission examining the impact of Canada's Indian residential schools is looking carefully at the 1455 and 1493 Catholic edicts as part of its final report.

Many argue the proclamations legitimized the treatment of aboriginal people as "less than human."

Crown sovereignty in Canada can be traced back to those papal bulls, and neither Canada nor the United States has repudiated them, Sinclair said.

A growing chorus in Canada is calling on the Vatican to help begin a new relationship with aboriginal people on equal footing.

The discovery bulls, and others in the same vein that followed, gave Catholic explorers "full and free power, authority and jurisdiction of every kind" and outlined their "duty to lead the peoples dwelling in those islands and countries to embrace the Christian religion."

If aboriginal people refused, the Vatican granted its envoys the authority to enslave and kill.

If the commission recommends the bulls be rescinded, Sinclair said, it has to weigh the legal implications, which could strike at the core of Crown sovereignty over land.

The United Nations appointed a special rapporteur in 2009 who found the bulls lie "at the root of the violations of indigenous peoples' human rights."

The edicts have resulted in the "mass appropriation of the lands, territories and resources of indigenous peoples," the UN found. They also form the legal basis of many modern-day land-claim disputes, it said.

For Keith Matthew, former chief of Simpcw First Nation in British Columbia, it's about "righting a historic wrong."

"I'm no animal. I'm a person, a human being," Matthew said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Calls for release

Harper spoke with Egypt's president on Fahmy's case: PMO

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has personally reached out to Egypt's president to secure the release of a Canadian journalist imprisoned in Cairo.

Harper's office won't say exactly when the overture between the prime minister and Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi took place.

"The Prime Minister has communicated with the president on this case. I'm not going to get into the specifics of the communication between the PM and the president, including the timing or details of that communication," Harper's spokesman Jason MacDonald said in an email.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Health

Not vaccinating children is 'irresponsible,' Ambrose says

The federal health minister says she can't help but get emotional over some parents' decision not to get their children vaccinated against infectious diseases.

"I find it really irresponsible," Rona Ambrose said Tuesday, adding that anyone who still believes a debunked and fraudulent 1990s study linking vaccines to autism should speak to their doctor.

Ambrose said measles in particular is an incredibly infectious disease and parents who refuse to get their kids immunized are putting other children at risk.

She called vaccines miracles of modern medicine that save lives.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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A pro-Russian rebel mans a weapon mounted on a pickup truck in the town of Vuhlehirsk, eastern Ukraine, on Tuesday. Fighting in eastern Ukraine intensified on Tuesday ahead of much-anticipated peace talks, with both sides claiming significant advances. VADIM BRAYDOV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hostilities escalate ahead of Ukrainian peace talks

Fighting. Latest round of violence leaves 12 dead and 64 wounded as European leaders prepare to meet with Russia today

Fighting intensified Tuesday in eastern Ukraine ahead of crucial peace talks set for Wednesday, with both sides claiming significant advances. The government accused the Russian-backed rebels of shelling a town far behind the front lines, killing 12 people and left scores wounded.

The fighting, which the UN says has killed more than 5,300 people since April, comes ahead of a summit planned for Wednesday in Minsk involving the leaders of France, Germany, Russia and Ukraine.

"Tomorrow's meeting in Minsk offers one of the last chances to declare an unconditional cease-fire and pull back heavy artillery," Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said Tuesday.

On Monday German Chancellor Angela Merkel met with U.S. President Barack Obama and Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper to secure support for a peaceful resolution.

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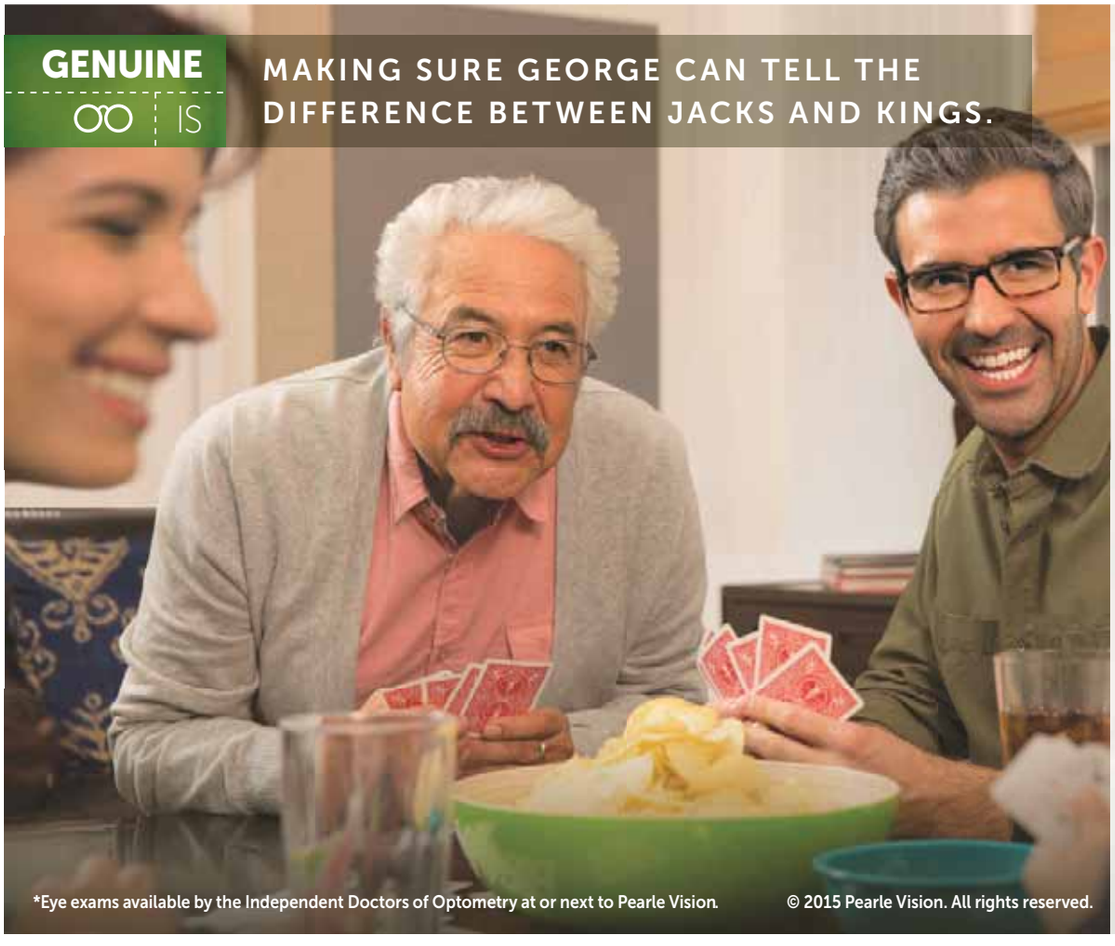
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Robots will cut labour costs 24%, report says

Growth. Robot usage forecast to rise 10% a year in the world's 25 biggest exporting countries, up from current 2% to 3%

Cheaper, better robots are expected to cut labour costs at Canadian factories by 24 per cent over the next decade, as more companies replace human workers at a faster pace, according to a report issued Tuesday.

Globally, labour costs are expected to be reduced by some 16 per cent by 2025, the report by the Boston Consulting Group predicts.

In a separate report, RBC Global Asset Management notes that robots can be reprogrammed far faster and more efficiently than humans can be retrained when products are updated or replaced.

Robots won't be limited to developed countries with their aging, high-cost workforces. Even low-wage China will use robots to slash labour costs by 18 per cent, Boston Consulting predicts.

Increasing automation is likely to change the way companies evaluate where to open and expand factories. Boston Consulting expects manufacturers will "no longer simply chase cheap labour." Factories will employ fewer people, and that could lure more manufacturers back to Canada and the United States from lower-wage countries.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

Robots install rivets on a 2015 Ford F-150 truck at the Dearborn Truck Plant in Michigan. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Cyberattacks. Hackers can't be kept out: Experts

As hackers routinely overwhelm computer defences, experts say cybersecurity is beyond due for an overhaul.

Their message: Neutralize attackers once they're inside networks rather than fixating on trying to keep them out.

According to U.S. cybersecurity company FireEye, 229 days is the median length of time attackers lurk inside their victim's computers before being detected or revealing themselves, underscoring the weakness of conventional tools in identifying intruders.

The traditional defences must "have a description of the bad guys before they can help you find them," said Dave Merkel, chief technology officer at FireEye Inc.

Experts aren't recommending organizations stop deploying perimeter defences such as antivirus software or firewalls. But they say a strategy that could be likened to laying traps is needed to counter the sophisticated hacks.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Newsweek Twitter feed

The Newsweek Twitter feed was briefly hacked Tuesday, purportedly by Cyber Caliphate, a hacker group affiliated with Islamic State.

- The posts included a message targeting U.S. President Barack Obama, his wife Michelle and their daughters.

Market Minute

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VOICES

VACCINES FOR KIDS SHOULD BE MANDATORY

KRISTEN THOMPSON
readers@metronews.ca

Ready for your daily dose of controversy? I believe strongly in childhood vaccinations. Wait, I'm not done. I believe they should be mandatory.

I can feel thousands of readers bristling right now. This is a sensitive topic because most of us love our children, and most of us want what is best for them. But that doesn't mean we are always acting in their best interest. And that's when the government should step in.

Here's why: We need a 95 per cent vaccination rate for herd immunity to protect against contagious diseases, and according to UNICEF, Canada's rate hovers around 84 per cent. So until we raise the immunization rates, we are all at risk.

If you think the government has no right to meddle in how we care for our children, you're wrong. It meddles every day, and rightly so.

It intervenes when children are raised in filthy homes, allowed to ride in cars without seatbelts, left unattended at home, or refused life-saving medical treatment. Religion, culture and ideology do not trump these laws.

Why is it different when parents say "no" to childhood vaccines?

Maybe because it was less of an issue a decade ago. Vaccination rates are declining, according to the U.S. Center for Disease Control, due in part to a growing culture of distrust in big pharma and regulatory agencies. What this means is we need better education campaigns and more transparency into vaccine safety and oversight.

The reality is we've been inoculating against deadly diseases for more than 200 years, and the science is well-established: Vaccines are safe and a crucial component of childhood and community health. Ingredients undergo rigorous testing and serious reactions — which are incredibly rare — are highly monitored.

The diseases we vaccinate against can be fatal — they kill hundreds of thousands of children in developing countries every year. And they can return when vaccination rates decline. That means the benefits of vaccines by far outweigh the risks.

So why do we allow parents to gamble with kids' lives — their own kids, or the lives of newborns and other peoples' children who can't be immunized for health reasons — by refusing vaccinations? Especially

The diseases we vaccinate against kill hundreds of thousands of children in developing countries every year. GETTY IMAGES

when the science is so clear, and the dangers so terrible?

This is not a debate about individual rights versus public health, because kids are not extensions of us — they are individuals with their own rights.

The debate is where to draw the line when it comes to parental freedom of choice.

Parenthood, in the wise words of my father, is not a right but a privilege, and that's an important distinction. It's not our "right" to make any choice we want for our kids, it's our duty to make wise ones, ones that set them on the best path.

That's why when a parent makes a choice on behalf of the child that puts that child or others at serious risk, regardless of their intentions, society should step in.

Is this dangerous government overreach? Slovenia and Croatia don't think so. Both countries have made vaccinations mandatory for nine specific diseases.

Croatia's Constitutional Court said it best when it ruled "the child's right to health is more than the rights of parents to the (wrong) choice."

That country's decision to overrule parental freedom for the sake of community well-being means that diphtheria, whooping cough and measles have been eradicated there.

In fact, 14 European countries have at least one mandatory vaccination included in their program.

So what would happen if Canada also imposed mandatory vaccinations? Many parents would be up in arms. But ... so what?

We live in a highly relativistic society and tend to wring our hands endlessly over respect for other people's points of view, even when those views are contrarian. But when people choose to reject clear scientific evidence in favour of their own misguided beliefs, the hand-wringing should stop.

Especially when the well-being of children is involved.

3-DNA-sourced babies

'There is a line and we're crossing it. I think we can cross it if we are extremely cautious': Bioethicist

With the three-parent IVF technique recently getting the green light in the U.K., debate is brewing in Canada about the controversial procedure.

While it is currently illegal in Canada under the Assisted Human Reproduction Act of 2004, proponents say it would allow couples to have healthy children in cases where the mother might otherwise pass on mitochondrial disease. Moreover, these children would be almost entirely genetically their own offspring.

Metro asked Kerry Bowman, a bioethicist with the University of Toronto, for his take. The following has been edited down from a longer interview:

You've said before that you give the technique cautious approval. Why?
Approval is a bit strong. I get it with three-person reproduction and why you would want to do this. By doing so you can hopefully prevent the suffering and early death of babies and young children. There's something called mitochondrial disease and if you do this technique, hopefully — if it goes well — you could avoid that. But we are crossing a line. Some people say what we are really doing is genetically altering an unborn child. We're actually changing what's called the human germ line. And some people say, 'Well, what does that matter?' But when people are looking at their identity, they're studying their ancestry and who we are as people, our geographical origins from an evolutionary point of view, migration point of view — that's all traced through mitochondrial DNA. Identity isn't necessarily about percentages; it's about what your story is.

Is three-parent IVF a fair term?

"Some people would say it is an overly dramatic term and it's inaccurate, because there's really two genetic parents. I don't really agree with that, because the child wouldn't be born if you didn't have the third input from the third parent, so I think it is actually an accurate use of language."
Kerry Bowman, bioethicist

So you're saying this is significantly different from other reproductive assistance technologies? Yes, this is the first time it would be inheritable, passed down from generation to generation. So there are a lot of things to consider. What are the risks? Unknown. There are no foreseeable risks but that doesn't mean no risks will occur.

What other applications could this type of technology have? We don't have the capacity yet, but this is the type of technique that could be used to genetically enhance unborn babies, so designer, babies, essentially. I don't think that would be the right thing to do. But I think with mitochondrial DNA, the biggest thing is that there is a line and we're crossing it. I think we can cross it if we are extremely cautious.

What specific policies would you suggest we adopt then? I fully acknowledge that right now it is illegal, but a lot has changed since 2004. A lot. So I think you would need to go case by case, and the only cases that would be allowed — if it were going to be allowed — would be for cases of mitochondrial disease. And I think it would be wise to wait to see what happens in Britain.

A simplified explanation:

The technique takes the nucleus of a mother's egg and places it in a donor's egg, from which the nucleus has been removed. This new egg contains the donor's mitochondria (but not the mother's). It is then fertilized with the father's sperm.

- **In this way, the child inherits the vast majority of its DNA from the mother and father, but inherits the mitochondrial DNA from the donor mother.**

INTERVIEWED BY EMINA GAMULIN/METRO

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Gossip

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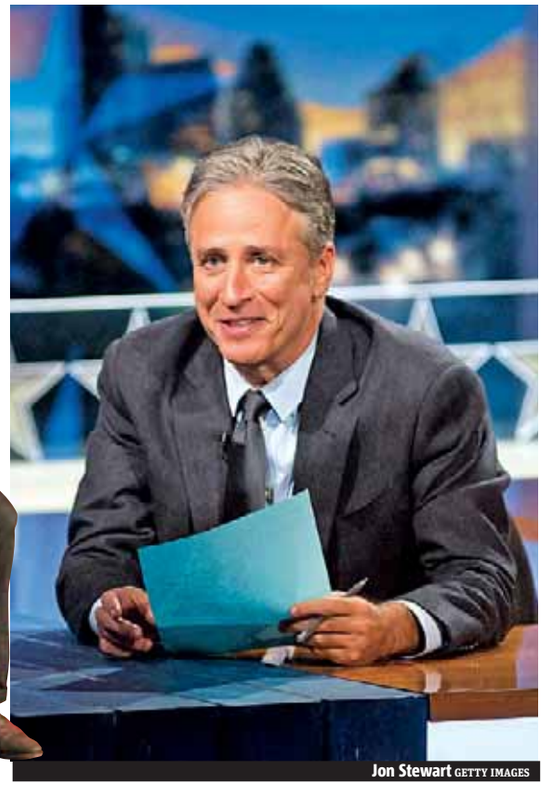
METRO'S TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES



Jon Stewart GETTY IMAGES

Stewart writes his Dear Jon letter to Comedy Central

Jon Stewart will be leaving The Daily Show after nearly 17 years, he announced to the audience of Tuesday night's episode. The comedian, writer and director took over in 1999 from Craig Kilborn, slowly turning the fledgling newscast spoof into a cultural and political force, taking politicians on both sides of the aisle, the media and even himself to task for any misstep, while also launching the careers of Stephen Colbert, Steve Carell and John Oliver.

"For the better part of the last two decades, I have had the incredible honour and privilege of working with Jon Stewart. His comedic brilliance is second to none," Comedy Central president Michele Ganeless said in a statement. "Jon has been at the heart of Comedy Central, championing and nurturing the best talent in the industry, in front of and behind the camera. Through his unique voice and vision, The Daily Show has become a cultural touchstone for millions of fans and an unparalleled platform for political comedy that will endure for years to come."

No set date for Stewart's departure was announced, though Ganeless did say the host would continue on the show "until later this year." Stewart first took a leave of absence from the show to direct his feature film, Rosewater, leaving Oliver to sit in for him.

Double the Spider-Man, half the Garfield

Good news for comic book movie fans, but not so much good news for Amazing Spider-Man star Andrew Garfield. Marvel has hashed out a deal to regain creative control of one of its highest-profile characters without the beleaguered Sony having to lose one of its two remaining bankable franchises — the other being Bond.

According to a statement from Marvel, "the new Spider-Man will first appear in a Marvel film from Marvel's Cinematic Universe. Sony Pictures will thereafter release the next instalment of its $4-billion Spider-Man franchise, on July 2017, in a film that will be co-produced by Kevin Feige and his expert team at Marvel, and Amy Pascal, who oversaw the franchise launch for the studio 13 years ago. Together, they will collaborate on a new creative direction for the web-slinger. Sony Pictures will continue to finance, distribute, own and have final creative control of the Spider-Man films."

Andrew Garfield

Unfortunately, when they say "the new Spider-Man," they're not kidding. The Hollywood Reporter claims that current Spidey star Andrew Garfield will not be involved.

Now, the real question is which Marvel film Spider-Man first pops up in. The smart money is on Captain America: Civil War, due out in 2016, but wouldn't it be awesome if he snuck into this year's Avengers?

Weird Al gets Whiplashed

Weird Al Yankovic is taking the prep for his upcoming world tour very seriously. Maybe a little too seriously, according to a new College Humor video that pits Yankovic against Oscar nominee J.K. Simmons' terrorizing Whiplash music teacher. If you've always loved tense Oscar movie standoffs and accordion-drenched polka, but never dreamed of the two flavours blended together, this is your moment.

Weird Al Yankovic

Chrissy Teigen and John Legend

Did John Legend get busy at an Obama fundraiser?

Barack Obama's 2008 presidential campaign was really, really inspiring — and apparently a turn-on for John Legend and Chrissy Teigen. When asked on the Grammys red carpet about the best public place they've ever made whoopee, Teigen blurted out, "Probably the Obama thing." But when pressed for details, Legend clammed up. "We're not talking about that. We're not going to discuss that," Legend insists. Teigen at least wants to make clear that it was "not at the White House," with her husband teasing that the dirty deed took place before Obama was elected. So, who wants to go back and check what campaign stops Legend appeared at in 2008?

Study proves key female roles are on the wane

If you've felt like actresses aren't getting the same opportunities as their male counterparts in Hollywood, you're on to something. And now there's actual, verifiable proof of your hunch. A new study by the Center for the Study of Women in Television and Film at San Diego State University has found that women only comprised 12 per cent of the protagonists in 2014's top-grossing films, while they'd been at 15 per cent in 2013 and 16 per cent in 2012. So just because The Hunger Games and Maleficent did really well last year, don't be fooled. "There is a growing disconnect or gap between what we might perceive as being the current status of women in film and their actual status," says the study's author, Martha Lauzen. "A few high-profile cases can skew our thinking." OK fine, but how do we fix it?

Angelina Jolie as Maleficent

SCENE

A watershed time for transgender rights

Social change. Gossip about Bruce Jenner's possible transition is occurring at the same moment that key legal battles are heating up

Former Olympic athlete Bruce Jenner, with stitches and a scar on his face, is seen here at an NBA basketball game in Los Angeles in 2012. Jenner has recently declined public comment on whether or not he is preparing to live as a woman, but those in his inner circle have not challenged the speculation. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Whether or not Olympic legend Bruce Jenner becomes its new champion, the transgender rights movement is making remarkable strides on many fronts — ranging from mass-media visibility to legal protections. Yet despite the gains, activists say many transgender Americans, far more so than gays and lesbians, remain vulnerable to violence, discrimination and lack of understanding.

"We see transgender rights as the next wave of the work we need to do, after marriage equality," said Katherine Franke, director of Columbia Law School's Center for Gender and Sexuality Law.

"Getting protections on paper is important," she said. "But the day-to-day lives of many transgender people won't be affected — they're unemployed, they're experiencing violence in the streets, in shelters, in schools."

Allyson Robinson, an activist working to end the U.S. military's ban on transgender people serving openly, said gains for transgender rights in some areas have triggered a backlash from some social and religious conservatives who feel they've lost the fight against same-sex marriage.

"Transgender people and their identities and communities are under siege right now on multiple fronts," she said, citing as an example recent bills proposed in state legislatures that would make it illegal for transgender people to use a bathroom that doesn't correspond with their biological gender.

The mix of advancement and adversity forms a backdrop to what promises to be an intriguing melodrama over the coming months regarding Jenner, the 1976 decathlon gold medallist who was featured on Wheaties boxes and more recently has appeared as a real-life stepfather on Keeping Up With the Kardashians.

Though Jenner himself has declined public comment, those in his inner circles have not challenged the mounting speculation that he is preparing to live as a woman and perhaps will appear in a new reality series about his transition.

His mother, Esther Jenner, told The Associated Press on Wednesday that she had spoken with her son about his private and public journey.

"He said, 'I want to be honest about my identity, and I know this is coming out in the press,'" Esther Jenner said. "He started by saying, 'We need to have a long, serious talk.' I am at peace with what he is and what he's doing."

Over the weekend, Jenner was in an unwelcome spotlight as one of the drivers in a four-car crash in Malibu, Calif., that claimed a woman's life. The spotlight on him could grow more intense in the months ahead.

Among activists and bloggers who focus on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues, there's widespread sentiment that Jenner alone should dictate the pace and the details of any disclosure he wants to make about his identity. Yet there's also keen interest in what sort of impact he might have were he to confirm a transition that would make him arguably the most famous American ever to openly identify as transgender.

Depending on how Jenner's story is presented and received, the revelation that a lauded athlete and member of one of the nation's most visible families is transgender could be comparable to the cultural shifts that accompanied the news that movie star Rock Hudson was gay and died of AIDS-related complications and that basketball great Magic Johnson, a heterosexual, was HIV-positive.

"In the long term, we'd say the disclosures were helpful for the movement to normalize homosexuality and bring better medical attention to AIDS/HIV," Franke said. "When celebrities came out as being members of these communities, it ended up shifting the national narrative."

The narrative at the moment, for transgender Americans, is complex. On one hand, they have many recent breakthroughs to celebrate, such as:

- Several positive, high-profile portrayals of transgender people on popular TV shows, including the prison inmate played by Laverne Cox on Orange is the New Black, and the transgender woman played by Golden Globe winner Jeffrey Tambor in Transparent.
- Moves by at least nine U.S. states to ensure that health insurers cover transgender treatment that's deemed medically necessary. In a related move, the federal government ended a Medicare exclusion of coverage for services related to gender transition.
- Steps by some states to eliminate requirements that transgender people had to undergo surgery before being allowed to change the gender on their birth certificates.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"Transgender people and their identities and communities are under siege right now on multiple fronts." Activist Allyson Robinson

The novels that Hollywood couldn't ignore

Adaptations. With a Fifty Shades film soon upon us, we look back at how iffy bestsellers fared on the big screen

This weekend sees the release of Fifty Shades of Grey, the latest publishing sensation to become a hotly anticipated film. Advance ticket sales have already broken records.

But it's not the first time that a bestseller with a questionable reputation has led to a no-brainer film. Here are other instances where a novel was just too big for the movies to ignore. **MATT PRIGGE/METRO IN NEW YORK CITY**

Gone with the Wind

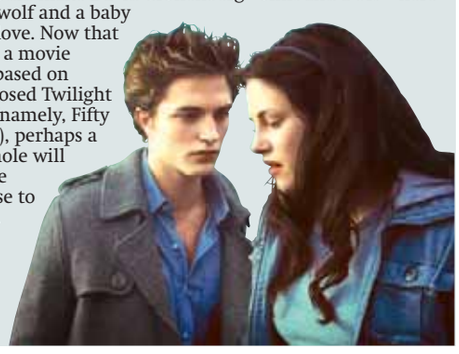
Author: Margaret Mitchell
Copies sold: 30 million
Publishing date: 1936
Made into a movie in: 1939

Mitchell's Civil War saga was a mega-seller right off the bat. In fact, the film rights were sold only a month after it was published. By the time shooting was underway in early 1939, the novel — which was only part trash and even won the Pulitzer — was such a sensation that any film needed to have equal immensity. And it got it: not only does the finished film run nearly four hours, but it was made with the finest wares — as much a technical achievement as an artistic one. Indeed, every single Technicolor shot is a doozy, and every performance so deeply felt that ignoring its racial politics proves easier than it should be.

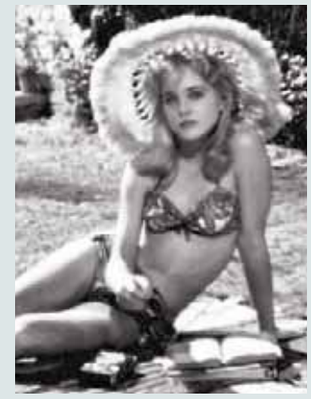
Twilight series

Author: Stephenie Meyer
Copies sold: 120 million
Publishing dates: 2005-2011
Made into movies: 2008-2012

The trend by which any moderately selling YA series can beget a movie franchise began here. It made a mint out of a piece of Mormon propaganda warning young readers about the dangers of teenage sex before going, in its final instalment, full-tilt boogie with super-sex, a birth scene that would make David Cronenberg vomit and a bit where a werewolf and a baby fall in love. Now that there's a movie series based on repurposed Twilight fanfic (namely, Fifty Shades), perhaps a wormhole will tear the universe to shreds.



Lolita



Author: Vladimir Nabokov
Copies sold: 50 million
Publishing date: 1955
Made into a movie in: 1961

Lolita isn't a trash novel; it's one of the most beautifully written achievements in literature. Nevertheless, let's assume the majority of those buying Nabokov's book about a "nymphette" loved by an obsessive scholar were drawn to its raciness, not its flowing prose. But Lolita's cultural importance couldn't be ignored, even by a Hollywood still hogtied by the censorious Production Code, which meant the very basis of the story could be made neither explicit nor even implied. Stanley Kubrick wound up with the thankless job of directing it, and he turned in a fascinatingly torn picture, one that amped up the comedy (thanks to Peter Sellers) but also, via lead James Mason, the tragic despair. In 1998, a more faithful — albeit still understandably bashful — film was made by Fatal Attraction's Adrian Lyne, but it had none of the wit and anguish of Kubrick's severely compromised film.

Love Story

Author: Erich Segal
Copies sold: 21 million
Publishing date: 1970
Made into a movie in: 1970

Actually, this wasn't technically an adaptation: Segal had first written his tale of an Ivy Leaguer who falls for a diseased Radcliffe honey as a screenplay, then turned it into a novel while production was underway. It became a bestseller, which only helped the film: Readers could flip over the final page and promptly go see the earnest film made of it, which producer Robert Evans memorably described as having caused "more pregnancies ... than any other ever made in the history of film." Evans was a whiz with literary movies — having already tackled Rosemary's Baby by this point, he would next turn to Mario Puzo's The Godfather.

Valley of the Dolls

Author: Jacqueline Susann
Copies sold: 30 million
Publishing date: 1966
Made into a movie in: 1967

In 1966, Susann's trash-fest about pill-popping Hollywood ingenues became the year's bestseller. By 1967, it was one of the year's top-grossing movies. Neither was respected, though, and by 1970, the studio that owned it had assigned T&A man Russ Meyer and acclaimed young film critic Roger Ebert to lampoon it with Beyond the Valley of the Dolls.

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Uma, is that you?

Uma Thurman GETTY IMAGES

A change of face for Thurman

You might just have to take our word for it that you're looking at a photograph of Kill Bill star Uma Thurman, who hit the red carpet for NBC's The Slap looking nearly unrecognizable. Her minimal makeup look seems like a perfect opportunity to illustrate just how much of a difference eyeshadow and eyeliner can make. Seriously, it's remarkable. Or maybe it's just the contrast between the very red lipstick and the nearly makeup-free eyes. Or the lack of distinctive bangs. Or the fact that she didn't really feel like smiling.

NED EHRBAR / MWN

The Slap a star-powered character study

TV. Eight-episode series examines the aftermath of a moment of discipline

LISA WEIDENFELD
Metro in New York City

Peter Sarsgaard and Zach Quinto star in The Slap. HANDOUT

The Slap represents a new step for NBC. The hour-long show is a drama based on an Australian program, but it's a limited episode run, with only eight shows in its season, and a serious list of prestige players took part. The Kids Are All Right director Lisa Cholodenko directed every episode, playwright Jon Robin Baitz wrote it, and the show stars Peter Sarsgaard, Thandie Newton, Zachary Quinto and Uma Thurman. The action centres around a group of Brooklynites whose urbane existence is shaken up when one of them (Quinto) slaps another's misbehaving child at backyard barbecue.

Asked what it's like playing the person at the heart of the action, Quinto says, "It's only the centre of the controversy because it's the incident. There are so many other things that are happening and there are so many other levels of complexity in each of these characters. They all have their own epicentre of disaster in their lives."

The series examines ideas of parenting in America, always a heady topic, as there's a clash between the Greek immigrant family on one side of the debate, and the longtime U.S. residents on the other. Is the slap child abuse, or an accepted mode of discipline for a rowdy child? Despite the fact that these are all people who are close enough to attend a party together, Quinto says the characters will "very clearly" divide into camps, but on a broader scale, he hopes audiences are more torn.

"I think if it works, there'll be a lot of going back and forth," says Quinto.

"I like to hold a mirror up to the audience and I like for them to take responsibility for their feelings and their thoughts and their beliefs."

It's a new direction for Quinto, who many audiences know from his work as Spock or as the villainous Sylar on Heroes.

"I was thrilled to get the opportunity to do this. I've known Robbie (Baitz) for years. I'm a big admirer of his work," says Quinto.

"I'm drawn to things that invite an audience in and light a little bit of a fire to generate some discourse, dialogue, debate, and it doesn't give the audience the answer. There's no clear-cut point of view with this story and I like that."

Genre hero

- Though Quinto is making the change from genre to a more straightforward drama, he's still getting into trouble. "(My character) Harry is arguably the villain of the series, but in a very human way, so for me it was about getting into a world that was not elevated or supernatural or science fiction. This is a very human world. So now that I've had the opportunity to do that, I feel a sense of closure on the sort of villainous aspect of my persona."
- **Just how goofy can Quinto get?** He says he's "looking forward to a future of varied opportunities," and jokes that what's coming next will be "some lighter fare."

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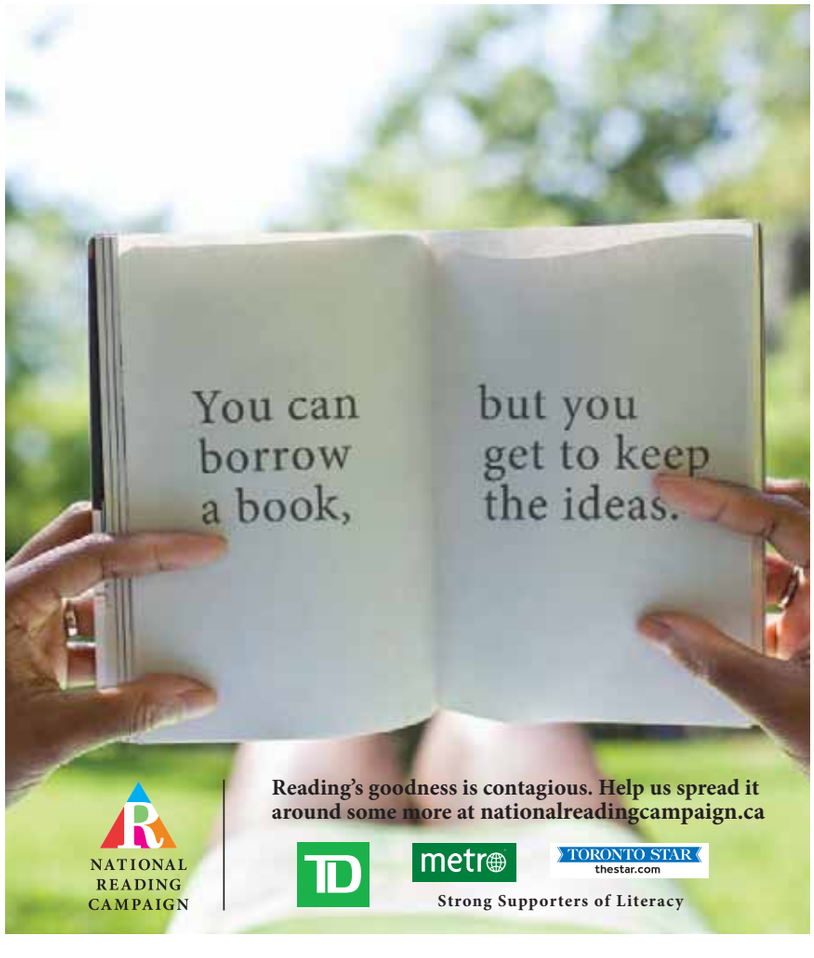

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Jake Johnson has made up a new rule for True American, the show's beloved drinking game. HANDOUT

What's New with the Girl?

TV. Jake Johnson chats about his character, his cast and the game that's caused a stir

LISA WEIDENFELD
Metro in New York City

Midway through its fourth season, New Girl is still finding new situations to throw its oddball loft residents into. This season has seen the characters exploring new careers, as Winston tries life as a cop, Jess takes on leadership responsibilities at her school and Nick and Schmidt decide to team up and sell sweatsuit suits. But that doesn't mean the show isn't going to give the people a little bit of what they love about the show. We talked to Jake Johnson (Nick) about what's ahead for the show, and a new confusing rule for their famous history-based drinking game, True American.

Will we see more True American this year?
Absolutely. I think we'll see True American for as long as the show goes.

Are you an expert on the game at this point?
Here's the reality, and it's disappointing for fans who want it to be something it's not. I say this as an expert, because I've been in every True American scene, and I was there when it started: There are no rules.

You guys are just making it up?
The guy who wrote the first one, Luvh Rakhe, came to set and said, we haven't figured this one out. It's some sort of a drinking game. And then we all started saying things that we used to do in drinking games.

So you just throw in anything you can think of.
It's like the chop suey of drinking games. Anything you got, throw it in. If you're playing quarters and want to turn it into True American, you can. Just add it, and it's True American.

Well, there's a president on the coin.
That's right. That's what it is. You have to say a president if you hit it, then you point to who drinks and that's your vice-president. If they don't know the vice-president of the president you named, they have to take two drinks.

We just saw Nick get dumped. What's coming up for him?
Nick's going to be single a bit. I'd like to see Nick date a little bit. I'd like to see him find somebody. I just texted Liz Meriwether, maybe it's time Nick gets in a relationship. Hopefully she'll listen. I'd like to date someone who's a really good actor and do a bunch of stories with them.

Look out for it

Anything else you can tease about what's coming up on the show?

- Justin Long is coming back, Josh Gad is coming back. So we got some good stuff coming up.

Spinoff series

Bob Odenkirk stars in Better Call Saul. HANDOUT

Saul debut among most watched in cable history

AMC's new Breaking Bad spinoff got off to an excellent start on Sunday evening, attracting 6.9 million viewers. This was the second-most-watched premiere in U.S. cable history, just behind the first episode of The Closer.

Bolstered by The Walking Dead as its lead-in, Better Call Saul premiered Sunday, Feb. 8 on AMC to an audience of 6.9 million. The prequel series about the lawyer Saul Goodman got off to a much stronger start than Breaking Bad, which debuted in January 2008 to 1.4 million viewers. AFP

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LIFE 3

Cali's sand and surf combo

Adventure. Just a quick flight separates ski and surf in the Golden State's south

MIKE DOJC
life@metronews.ca

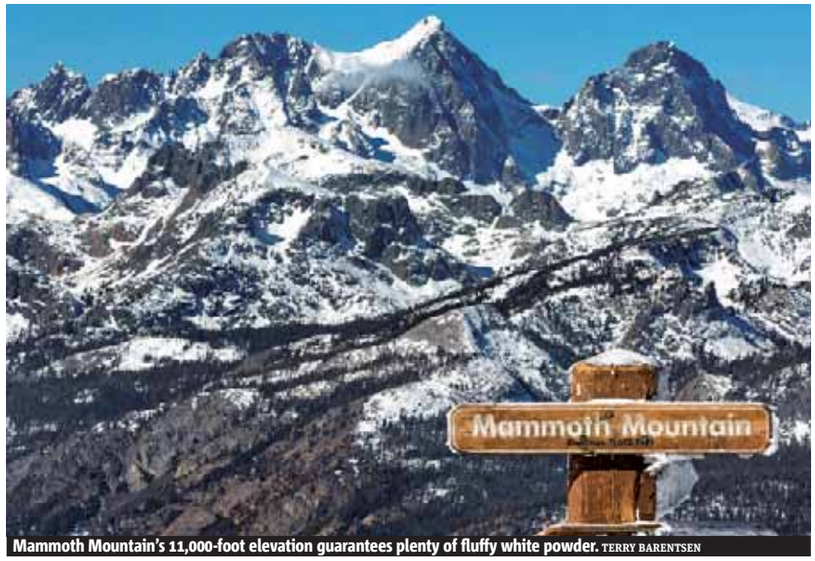
Shredding powder and riding frothy swells may be mutually exclusive pursuits but just as chefs routinely indulge palates by putting lobster and steak on the same plate, skiing and surfing don't have to be getaway strangers, even in the dead of winter. Indulge in the best of both worlds in Southern California by pairing a ski vacation at Mammoth Mountain with some surfing in San Diego.

Some like it cold

Mammoth Lakes, a quick flight from San Diego, L.A. or San Francisco, is a snowy town that sits atop a sleeping volcano in a valley on the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. A West Coast winter wonderland, Mammoth is home to the third most popular ski mountain in the U.S. after Vail and Breckenridge. Forget about California concrete — that heavy, wet, gloppy snow associated with other parts of the Golden State.

Mammoth's pillowy white stuff is as fluffy and cuddly as the Ice Age flicks. The mountain tends to get covered in a lighter snow owing to its 11,000-foot elevation, and because it's predominantly north-facing, the snowpack stays fresher longer, allowing for an extended season. The mountain has stayed open as late as July 4.

Intermediate skiers keen to climb to the summit for a sick 360-degree view of alpine peaks and indelible white-capped minarets are in luck. Exit the mountain-topping Panorama Gondola and peel right toward the blue square-rated Upper Road Runner, a leisurely three-mile-long cat track that offers plenty of scenic vistas as it winds its way back down to Main Lodge.



Mammoth Mountain's 11,000-foot elevation guarantees plenty of fluffy white powder. TERRY BARENTSEN

Sky high

Keep the adrenalin pumping by jumping off a 300-foot cliff at Torrey Pines Gliderport. Tethered to a giant kite, you'll soar like an eagle over Black's Beach and one of Cali's most storied golf courses. Tandem paraglides with a USHPA-certified instructor are $175 and be sure to get there a little early to sign and initial a sheaf of paperwork about as thick as a small-town phone book.

If ski and surf aren't enough, try paragliding over Black's Beach. TERRY BARENTSEN

Stay: Steps from the village and a gondola to the slopes, the Westin Monache Resort puts you in the heart of Mammoth. Plus, the breathtaking Mountain view from the outdoor hot tubs doesn't hurt.

Après-ski

For a taste of Cali-style barbecue, line up for a table at The Smokeyard BBQ & Chop Shop in Mammoth village. The shop is ostensibly a purveyor of smoky, finger-licking carnivorous delights; their brontosaurus-sized beef ribs will lull you into a Flinstonian meat coma. But outside an array of slow-cooked animal-flesh options are a couple unexpected menu items that shout out to the South African proprietors' culinary heritage. There's a mildly spiced durban curry as well as potjiekos (a popular Rainbow Nation stew) on offer. Next, toast to the high altitude lifestyle with a brew or two from Mammoth Brewing Company. Sip on a Fire & Eisbock, practically Mammoth in a bottle. Lava rocks heated up under an open fire dropped into the boil lend it a caramelized flavour and post-fermentation freeze distillation amps up the alcohol content.

Some like it hot

San Diego's 90 kilometres of sun-kissed playa has something for both beach bums and adventurers. For communing with bohemians and the dazed and confused set, head to Ocean Beach. For a wave-riding initiation, La Jolla Shores is the place. The scenic cliffs and caves block south swells, creating a protected bay for most of the year. Even if your idea of hanging 10 is holding onto the rim of a basketball hoop, the vivacious and confidence-instilling instructors at Surf Diva (2160 Avenida de la Playa) will have you up and riding in no time. Private one-hour surf lessons can be had for $93.50 or $99 for Stand Up Paddleboarding, with lower per-person rates for small groups.

Après-surf

Recap the day's exploits while sipping on something at Hard Rock Hotel San Diego's rooftop bar FLOAT, a posh lounge with firepits and cocktail waitresses in outfits snatched from Jessie J's closet.

Victoria, B.C. was voted the most romantic city in Canada in 2013 by Amazon.ca users. ISTOCK

Love is in the air at these romantic Canadian spots

Valentine's Day. Check out some of these last-minute getaways and really wow your sweetheart this year

ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca

Looking to do more than give your special someone a dozen roses this Valentine's Day? There are plenty of romantic options across the country.

Victoria, B.C., was voted the Most Romantic City in Canada in 2013 by Amazon.ca and third in the Top Ten Most Romantic North America Getaways in 2014. Stroll along Government Street, where the trees are wrapped in pink and red fairy lights, enjoy a candle-lit dinner overlooking the inner harbour or hide away for a night at the Inn at Laurel Point. In addition to a number of romance themed hotel packages for guests, the entire staff have undergone Month of Love training sessions, ensuring they are immersed in the Valentine's Day spirit and ready to share their favourite romantic moments, movies and quotes.

Skating hand-in-hand along Ottawa's Rideau Canal skate way is the perfect outdoor romantic activity. Follow that with a soak in the hot pools and a visit to the steam rooms and saunas of the Nordik Nature Spa in nearby Chelsea, Québec. Ottawa Tourism's Winterlude Amour package includes two nights' accommodation at a variety of hotels, shopping discounts at the downtown Rideau Centre and optional passes to a variety of museums, spa treatments or a chocolate lover's tour of the ByWard Market neighbourhood with C'est Bon Epicurean Adventures.

If you find yourself in Banff, Alta. on Feb. 14, take your special someone to the Cave and Basin National Historic Site. A brand new outdoor skating rink is opening on the grounds just in time for the big day. Sweep your sweetie off his or her feet with an evening of skating under the moonlight accompanied by music and old-time movies and surrounded by the splendour of the Rocky Mountains.

If you aren't able to get out of town consider an overnight at a hotel in your local area. Call and ask for their romance package; almost every hotel has one. At the very least it could mean some champagne and chocolate covered strawberries waiting in the room and often the packages will include a variety of value adds such as an in-room couple's massage or dinner for two. Consider heading to the closest provincial park and spend your weekend snuggled up in heated yurt, cabin or four-bedroom farmhouse; all still available to rent for the weekend.

Deal

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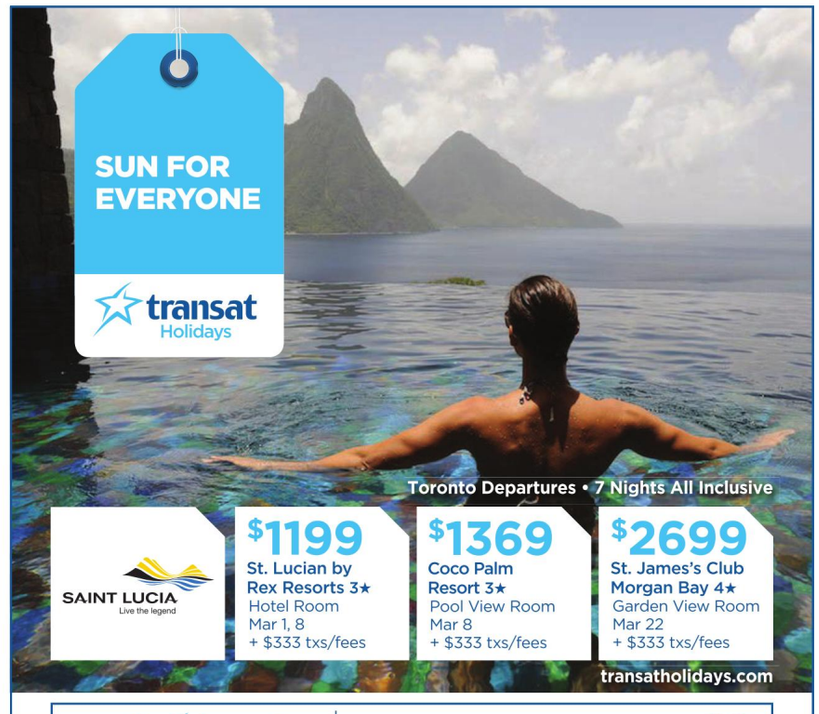
Intrepid Travel is offering 20 per cent off a few of its top Island Getaways, until Feb. 28 for travel through April 30. Just in time for spring break, these small-group trips could see you in Belize, Bali, Sri Lanka or Galapagos, or sailing through the Greek islands or along Italy's Amalfi Coast. Save almost $1,000 on the 10-day Complete Galapagos adventure, departing March 23. Visit IntrepidTravel.com.

DOUG WALLACE/METRO

Splurge

Uxua Casa Hotel & Spa Bahia, Brazil

This beach-side spot was named Best Hotel in the World by Smith Hotels, the leading curator of saucy weekends away. A 90-minute flight from Rio, the Uxua Casa is casual, rustic, modern and luxe — all at the same time. Ten private casas have all the comforts of home without losing the "barefoot chic" factor. The village of Transcoso, a hippie favourite in the '70s, is within walking distance. From $600 per night. Search at SmithHotels.com. DOUG WALLACE/METRO



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Bucket list

Sleep in an African tree house

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Where to warm yourself after a walk through Quebec's winter wonderland

Stay in. Ward off the chill by trying out some of these indoor activities in the Carnaval community

ANDREW JOHN VIRTUE DOBSON
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The Fairmont Le Château Frontenac has a wine and cheese bar featuring one of the largest varieties of Quebec cheese in Canada. ANDREW DOBSON/METRO

No other centre in Canada celebrates winter quite like Quebec City, with pristine snow coating the landscape, giving the appearance everything is all tucked away in a snow globe.

It's a city known for being downright frigid, but luckily there's ample opportunity to rest and relax in wondrous warmth.

Plant yourself in Old Quebec at the toasty warm boutique property Hotel 71, located in the building that was once the National Bank of Canada's first head office. The building's facade is a stunning example of 19th century neo-classic architecture while its interior features 60 contemporary rooms and suites. Peek outside for views of the mighty St. Lawrence River.

The Fairmont Le Château Frontenac is the city's iconic castle, which has recently undergone a $74-million renovation.

Your best bet for a sip and nibble is at 1608 Wine and Cheese Bar, featuring one of the largest varieties of top Quebec fromage in Canada, from their very own gilded Cheese Room.

The bar features a dazzling chandelier show, stuffed Canada geese which appear to fly out of the wall, and an eclectic selection of furniture which makes one want to cosy up to the fireplace, crack open a book and cuddle with a cocktail.

Located along the St. Lawrence River at Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré, Spa des Neiges offers a relaxing and memorable stay for those who enjoy the great outdoors.

This Nordic-inspired spa offers three outdoor thermal baths, sauna, steam room, teepees and relaxation rooms with a view. I'll never forget moving off my massage table like a zombie, pulling on a white robe and flip-flops and marching into the winter's cold to bob up and down in a steaming al fresco bath!

You haven't been to Quebec unless you've taken a moment to pause over a steaming bowl of poutine.

Leave your calorie counter at the door and step into the Chic Shack. The trendy restaurant offers local craft beer and divine gelato mixed milkshakes which pair perfectly with poutine.

Enjoy a classic with gravy and curds or switch it up with Coq Au Vin and Mushroom Ragout inspired indulgences.

Come to Carnaval!

- Cheer for the chilly at Quebec's 61st annual Carnaval, North America's most popular winter festival, which runs till Feb. 15. Wave hello to the festival's iconic mascot Bonhomme and sip hot cocoa while touring his awe-inspiring ice castle. Game of Thrones fans will notice a special treat at the festival this year as HBO Canada commissioned local ice sculptor Marc Lepire to replicate the show's iconic Iron Throne out of ice. The Ice Throne was unveiled on the eve of the festival and marks the official launch of the show's fourth season on Blue-ray and DVD, available across Canada on Feb. 17.

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Whether 'tis better to grow as an intern or a volunteer

Career. Choosing which works best for great career experience

LAUREN MARINIGH
TalentEgg.ca

What's the difference between an internship and a volunteer role?

Both roles have similarities, but there are qualities in each role that may or may not suit your current lifestyle or position.

Here are some things to consider when selecting your next opportunity.

Commitment

An internship may not allow much flexibility in your schedule. Most internships run during regular business hours — five days a week. This means you will have limited time to earn an income outside of your role. Depending on the compensation for the internship you're considering, this may not be beneficial if you have bills and rent to keep up with.

Volunteering has more flexibility, since most gigs don't require an extensive time commitment.

It provides you with a chance to get involved and gain experience, but also earn income and go to work on the side. However, since you won't be putting in as many hours, or doing the work as regularly, it may take longer to adjust to the role and sharpen those skills.

Make sure to lay out your commitments: How big an impact will taking on your new role have on your current schedule? If this opportunity is worth taking time away from a steady income, how can you arrange your budget so you don't end up in the red?

Environment

Taking on an internship will give you great experience to add to your resumé, and allow you to network. This is especially valuable for students and new graduates who are looking for a great foot-in-the-door role.

There are many industries that present volunteer opportunities as well.

Internships often take place in a professional environment, allowing you to experience working in an industry role with veterans in your field.
ISTOCK

However, volunteering often takes place in a more laid-back setting.

Chances are you'll be working with other volunteers, and while there will likely be some people who can provide valuable career advice and mentorship, it probably will not give you the same workplace experience of deadlines and urgency.

Having said this, volunteer experience is still valuable on your resumé, even if not directly related to your industry.

There are often transferable skills that you can showcase to a potential employer. It all comes down to what you want to gain.

Is the workplace culture and environment very important to you when gaining experience?

Or are you comfortable working from home or your set volunteer location in a more relaxed setting? Either way, you'll get great rewards out of either role.

Money matters

Keep in mind all expenses associated with the position you are considering.

- Some roles may require you to commute to a set location. Think about how far away you will have to travel and how you will be getting there. Budget the cost for transit fare or gas, and consider how frequently you will need to travel.
- Does your workplace require a dress code? Most volunteer organizations are not very strict on dress codes, but some offices where you will be interning may require business formal or business casual outfits. Will you have to purchase new outfits for the position?

Responsibilities

Take a look at the responsibilities you want to gain as a volunteer or intern. What would a typical day look like? Is there opportunity for growth?

An internship may involve working on smaller tasks to support working professionals, but it will allow you to gain mentorship from someone in a position you aspire to hold someday.

And understanding how the small tasks you do help create the final product is incredibly useful when you step into a job with more responsibilities.

In a volunteer role, there is more flexibility for leadership opportunities. If you are the type of person that is great at calling shots and delegating, you should know that many organizations now hire volunteers to take on management roles.

Are you a recent marketing graduate? Perhaps you might consider applying for a Marketing Manager role. The requirements for experience are not as strict, but it will look great on a resumé for future employers.

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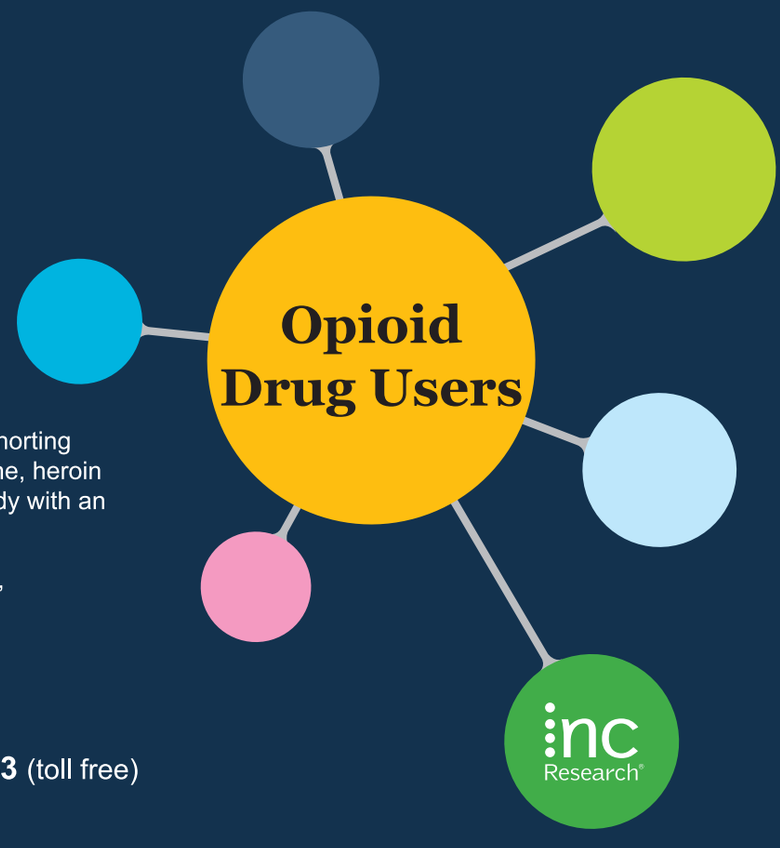

Kale shows off its hearty side in a soup

Dinner. The green that is typically thrown into smoothies or salads is the star in this warming dish that also features potatoes and sausage

DINNER EXPRESS
Emily Richards
food@metronews.ca

The month of February is the perfect time to enjoy some great sports and, of course, delicious food.

Even though football has died down, basketball and hockey are holding strong, along with curling and the golf tournaments that make me wish for warmer weather.

So as I was thinking about all these hard-working athletes and what I would cook for them, my mind went to a winter warm-up recipe in which soup grabs the spotlight.

I'm convinced soup would hit the spot for many athletes and sport watchers alike.

So here is a great winter warm-up soup that is easy to serve to your family for a weeknight meal or to friends when they come over to watch the game. It also works well for a lunchtime meal.

This soup has a rich broth full of sausage, potatoes and greens that add fibre and a hearty taste.

Ingredients

- 1 tbsp (15 ml) extra virgin olive oil
- 1 lb (500 g) fresh chorizo, Italian, farmer's or chicken sausages
- 2 onions, chopped
- 1 each carrot and celery stalk, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 4 Yukon Gold potatoes, (about 1 1/2 lbs/750 g) peeled and chopped
- 10 cups (2.5 l) low-sodium beef stock
- 1 small bunch kale, with the tough ribs removed
- Half bunch Swiss chard, trimmed

Directions

1. In large soup pot, heat oil over medium-high heat and brown sausages on all sides. Remove to cutting board, cut into slices and return to pot.

2. Add onions, carrot, celery and garlic and cook, stirring for about 5 minutes or until softened. Add potatoes and stock. Bring to boil, cover and reduce heat and simmer for about 15 minutes or until potatoes are tender when pierced with fork.

3. Meanwhile, chop kale and Swiss chard to make about 12 cups (3 litres) of lightly packed greens. Add to sausage mixture and simmer uncovered for about 15 minutes or until greens are tender.

This Chunky Sausage and Kale Soup recipe serves six to eight. EMILY RICHARDS

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Girls' teams

Local soccer clubs switching to safer and smaller balls

Girls on Toronto Soccer Association teams will be playing with smaller balls this year, a move the organization hopes will reduce injuries.

The balls — designed by Danish manufacturer Eir Soccer — will be used by all 24 under-13 teams girls' teams.

"It's the first time the balls will be used at the competitive level in North America," said TSA vice-president Jacques Konig.

According to Konig, girls are six times more likely to suffer a serious injury playing soccer than boys.

"Girls and boys actually kick the ball differently," he said. "And with a larger ball, there's a lot more pressure on the knees."

The Eir balls are two centimetres smaller in circumference than a standard ball and significantly lighter. They also feature a foam lining, which Konig says will reduce concussions on the pitch.

Konig dismissed claims the change is sexist. Injuries are one of the leading causes of attrition among female players, he said, and anything that keeps young girls healthy is a positive.

"Girls are built differently than boys. If we want them to stay in the game, and enjoy the game, we have to recognize that," he said.

LUKE SIMCOE/METRO

Liv Rabol of Denmark uses one of the smaller, lighter balls designed by Eir Soccer. The same balls will be used by the Toronto Soccer Association this summer. COURTESY EIR SOCCER

Raps' Casey welcomes lengthy all-star break

Following Wednesday night's game against the Wizards, Kyle Lowry, left, Jonas Valanciunas and the Raptors won't play again until Feb. 20. TARA WALTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

NBA. There's a week between regular-season games, but pre-playoff stretch won't allow for many breathers

There is a price to pay for everything and, as he prepares to send his Raptors off to the longest in-season break in his time as the team's head coach, Dwane Casey wants the NBA to find some balance.

The league, in an effort to save wear and tear on players whose all-star weekends are cluttered with games and appearances and scant little rest, has extended the break to almost a week.

It will be a welcome respite for all before the grind of the final 30 or so regular-season games are upon them, but once action starts up, it is a busy time of year.

The week in the middle hasn't been replaced by any extra time at the start or the end of the season, so what they get in time off they will pay for in the following eight weeks or so.

"It's a good mental break; the eight- or seven-day break is great but I think one thing it's done is crunch up the games and if you're not careful, it's going to cause injuries, more fatigue on the bodies," said Casey. "We've got to find, along with the all-star break, a way to space out the games a little bit more. That way you do take the stress off the bodies and you do get a better product on the floor."

The Raptors do go from the sublime to the ridiculous. They face the Washington Wizards at the Air Canada Centre on Wednesday night but then don't play again until a week from Friday in Atlanta. And coming out of the longest in-season break in franchise history, they will return to the grind with four road games in five nights, as exacting a toll as there is in a season.

"It's not my call to make but I would say that something (is needed) to relieve the pressure of as many back-to-backs that are crunched in all in a row," said Casey. "Something is going to give, whether it's bodies or the product on the floor. There's nothing better than a fresh NBA body and a mind going into a game."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quoted

"They're human; they're not computers."

Raptors coach Dwane Casey on players needing time to rest between games

Finding time

The prevailing wisdom is to cut something out of the interminable pre-season to find the extra days necessary rather than to start the season earlier or extend the playoffs past their late-June completion date.

- "I like that," Casey said. "Whether it's pre-season, time between games in the pre-season, less pre-season games and that type of thing."

MLS. Toronto FC names Bradley its captain

Expect a tougher, more hard-nosed Toronto FC this season, with new captain Michael Bradley leading the way.

And look for some urgency. Team ownership knows it's running out of chances to win in a marketplace starved for soccer success.

Eight losing seasons, nine coaches, a string of attempted quick fixes and dismal MLS record of 62-120-74 are in the rear-view mirror. As is Jermain Defoe, last year's designated saviour.

Toronto (11-15-8) set franchise highs in wins (11) and points (41) in 2014 but missed the playoffs yet again.

Bradley has been handed the on-field keys to the franchise. The 27-year-old American was confirmed as captain Tuesday, taking over from veteran Scottish defender Steven Caldwell.

"At the end of the day, nobody can ever question my commitment, my determination — the fact that my heart and soul go into whatever I'm doing," Bradley said Tuesday in a roundtable session with The Canadian Press.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Michael Bradley, pictured, replaces defender Steven Caldwell as Toronto FC's captain. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

4 SPORTS

EPL. Balotelli strikes back

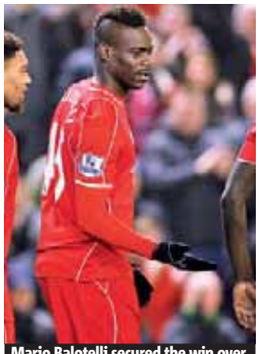
Mario Balotelli went from forgotten man to match-winner at Liverpool as his late goal against Tottenham tightened up the race for Champions League qualification in the Premier League on Tuesday.

The maverick Italy striker came off the bench for just his second appearance in a month, and pounced for an 83rd-minute strike to secure Liverpool a 3-2 win after the team had twice surrendered the lead at Anfield.

Arsenal, another team battling for a Champions League berth, scraped a 2-1 win over last-place Leicester to bounce back from its north London derby loss to Spurs and provisionally move level on points with third-place Southampton.

There are just three points between Southampton, whose game in hand is on Wednesday, and seventh-place Liverpool. Tottenham is sixth, a point ahead of Liverpool.

Balotelli hadn't scored a league goal since moving from AC Milan. That changed when he poked in a cross from fellow substitute Adam Lallana, although he barely raised a smile as his teammates mobbed him.



Mario Balotelli secured the win over Tottenham with an 83rd-minute goal. JON SUPER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Liverpool is unbeaten in nine league games and midfielder Jordan Henderson said: "We've got a little momentum, we've been playing some great stuff and I thought we showed great character tonight."

Arsenal is back above Tottenham, but the Gunners' win came at a cost as star forward Alexis Sanchez and midfielder Aaron Ramsey went off injured in the second half.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Leafs trying to put two wins together

Toronto Maple Leafs goalie James Reimer, right, took his frustration public when the Leafs' losing skid reached 11 games, saying he and his teammates needed to "smarten up and really play the way we can and with passion and like men." Fittingly, Reimer started in Saturday's 5-1 win over the Oilers and against the New York Rangers. Here, Martin St. Louis, left, is looking for a rebound during the first period in Toronto on Tuesday. Go to metronews.ca for the final score and more coverage of the game. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

CFL

Argos lose three players on free agency's first day

The Toronto Argonauts lost at least three players — likely four — to other CFL teams on the first day of free agency, including two pieces to their receiving corps.

Canadian wide receiver Spencer Watt signed with the Hamilton Tiger-Cats, and deep threat Darvin Adams signed with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers.

Later in the day, the Bombers announced they had signed Canadian defensive lineman Ivan Brown.

The Argos had not confirmed reports that they also lost offensive lineman SirVincent Rogers to the Ottawa Redblacks, but fans were tweeting the news and Rogers was retweeting those accounts.

The Argos also announced the release of offensive lineman Scott Mitchell (destination unknown) and the re-signing of linebacker Herve Tonye-Tonye. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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2015 GMC Yukon

- **Type.** Four-door, seven- or eight-passenger full-size SUV
- **Engines.** 5.3-litre V8 (355 hp), 6.2-litre V8 (420)
- **Transmissions.** 6- or 8-speed automatic
- **Price.** $51,850 base, $64,900 as-tested

Market position

GM says that one out of every three full-size, truck-based SUVs sold in Canada is a Yukon or Denali. In this limited segment, only the domestics offer two wheelbase lengths or a choice of engines.

Points

- The eight-speed transmission in the Denali is expected to make its way to other Yukon models eventually.
- The Denali includes an air-levelling suspension system and Magnetic Ride Control, which almost instantly tightens or softens the ride to match road conditions.
- Alert system warns about forward traffic or lane departure by vibrating the seat.

The first two rows are roomy, but the third row is very cramped.

Interesting features

Rear-view camera, oil and transmission cooler, front and rear park assist, rain-sensing wipers and remote starter are all standard; heated and cooled seats, power-folding third-row seat, adaptive cruise control, a rear-seat entertainment system, and power liftgate are all optional.

Do you want big, or bigger?

Review. GMC Yukon offers two wheelbase lengths and seating for eight, but is still light and nimble to drive

JIL MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

PHOTOS: JIL MCINTOSH

Although the full-size SUV segment is not as large as it once was, the remaining players are as big as ever.

The all-new 2015 GMC Yukon is available in two "big and bigger" wheelbase lengths, and with seating for up to eight people.

It's based on the GMC Sierra pickup that was completely overhauled for 2014, although it doesn't share any of that truck's exterior panels.

The base SLE trim line and my tester, the SLT, use the Sierra's 5.3-litre V8 engine and come in two-wheel drive, or, as in my vehicle, four-wheel drive.

Pricing ranges from $51,850 to $64,900. You can also get a luxurious top-line Denali trim, which uses a 6.2-litre V8 and comes only as a 4x4, for $74,600.

My tester was the regular-wheelbase model, but you can also get the extended-length Yukon XL in all trim lines, which adds $3,050 to the price of each.

All Yukon models have three rows of seats, but the XL gives you more legroom and extra cargo space behind the third row.

For all its size, the Yukon doesn't feel as big as it is when you're driving it, thanks to light steering and quick response.

When full power isn't needed, such as when you're cruising at a steady speed, the engine shuts off half its cylinders to save gas. It happens so seamlessly that you usually have to depend on the display in the instrument cluster to tell you when it's only feeding fuel to four cylinders.

The interior is as well-finished as you'd expect for the price, with simple controls that are easy to use.

The first and second rows are roomy, but the third row is perched over the rear axle and, as a result, there's very little room for your knees and the seating position isn't very comfortable.

For those who prefer the Chevrolet nameplate, the Tahoe and longer-wheelbase Suburban are mechanically identical to the Yukon, but have differences in their trim packages and lower starting prices.

Compare

1 Ford Expedition
Base price: $50,299
Two wheelbase lengths, but the sole engine choice is a 365-hp, 3.5-litre EcoBoost V6.

2 Toyota Sequoia
Base price: $53,885
Based on the Tundra pickup, Sequoia uses that model's 5.7-litre V8 and is 4WD only.

3 Nissan Armada
Base price: $59,828
Armada comes only in one fully loaded Platinum trim, with a 5.6-litre V8 engine.

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Shift: Feats in engineering promise greater mobility, increased fuel efficiency and incomparable style

Detroit electric sports car still at least a year away

Wannabe electric sports car manufacturer Detroit Electric has revealed its Lotus Evora-based SP:01 model in production trim, but says the vehicle won't be available until sometime in 2016, pending further testing. Production is set to take place in the United Kingdom, reports MotorAuthority, and the first models should roll off the production line later this year. Markets confirmed to date include the United States, Europe and Asia. Propulsion comes from a single electric motor rated at 285 horsepower with drive sent to the rear wheels only. Buyers can expect a zero-to-96 km/h time of 3.7 seconds, a top speed of 250 km/h and a driving range per charge of about 290 kilometres.

ALL STORIES AND PHOTOS FROM WHEELBASEMEDIA.COM

This is the production version of the Detroit Electric SP:01, but it's more than a year away.

Tiny Spira4u seeks global markets

Pilot production is underway in China for the electric- and gasoline-powered sub-subcompact Spira4u three-wheel urban vehicle, which marketers hope to bring to North America. Conceived as a low-cost (to make, own and operate) and hyper-economical vehicle, the Spira4u is an Automotive XPrize finalist and a cross between a car and a motorcycle. Its soft, honeycomb-composite structure protects up to two occupants in a collision, and the body from significant damage in parking lot fender-benders. The $6,200 gas-powered model delivers a top speed of 85 km/h and fuel efficiency of 2.9 L/100 km. The electric version reaches 100 km/h and goes 450 km per charge with one motor. A much faster two-motor model is also available.

The Spira4u is a bumper car that can shrug off light collisions. Made in China, the three-wheeler may be coming to North America soon.

Shift points

- Israeli company Storedot says it is a year away from marketing an electric-car battery that can be fully recharged in three minutes. If true and even remotely affordable, it would revolutionize the EV industry, putting it on equal refuel footing with gas engines.
- Johnson Controls says it has developed a small lithium-ion battery for use in vehicle stop-start systems, reports Automotive News. About the size of a tissue box and weighing just four kilograms, it can double current stop-start efficiency to eight per cent.
- Mazda says its 2016 MX-5 will be the first vehicle to incorporate parts made from a new bio-plastic it developed. The plastic is based on plant materials instead of petroleum, and does not require painting.

Kenguru EV hops on mobility bandwagon

Promising wheelchair-bound travellers a level of personal mobility never before possible, the first drive-from-wheelchair electric vehicle is under production in Pflugerville, Tex. The single-occupant Kenguru has a lone rear door that is operated by remote control, allowing the driver to wheel in, strap in, take control of the vehicle and, within seconds, be good to go. Designed more for urban areas than the open road, the 550-kilogram Hungarian-designed Kenguru is powered by two rear-axle electric motors, has a top speed of 50 km/h and a range of 70 to 110 kilometres per charge. It sells for about $31,000, before applying any electric-vehicle or mobility assistance funding that might be available in the buyer's jurisdiction.

Just drive in, lock down and drive off. Designed for drivers in a wheelchair, the Kenguru has a top speed of 50 km/h and a range of up to 110 km. It sells for about $31,000.

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Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest APR payment. Lease a 2015 [Fusion S FWD/Fusion Titanium AWD]/[Escape SE FWD 2.5L with Cargo Package/Escape Titanium] with a value of [$22,814/$34,999]/[$26,764/$32,999] (after [$995/$0]/[$995/$0] down payment or equivalent trade-in and [$500/$500]/[$0/$0] Manufacturer Rebate deducted and including freight and air tax of [$1,700/$1,700])/[$1,750/$1,750]) at [0%/0%]/[0%/0%] APR for up to [48/48]/[48/48] months with an optional buyout of [$19,438/$14,000]/[$11,592/$14,175], monthly payment is [$259/$428]/[$280/$377] (Comparison payments are for reference purposes only and are calculated as follows: the monthly payment is annualized (multiplied by 12) and then divided by the comparison period (26 for bi-weekly and 52 for weekly). For example, ([$259/$428]/[$280/$377] x 12) / 26 bi-weekly periods = [$119/$197]/[$129/$174]), total lease obligation is [$13,427/$20,544]/[$14,435/$18,096], interest cost of leasing is [$0/$0]/[$0/$0] or [0%/0%]/[0%/0%] APR. Offers include freight, air tax, and PPSA but exclude administration and registration fees of up to $799, fuel fill charge of up to $120 and all applicable taxes. Additional payments required for optional features, license, and insurance. All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. Some conditions and mileage restriction of [64,000 km/64,000 km]/[64,000 km/64,000km] for [48/48]/[48/48] months applies. Excess kilometrage charges are 12¢ per km for Fiesta, Focus, C-MAX, Fusion and Escape; 16¢ per km for E-Series, Mustang, Taurus, Taurus X, Edge, Flex, Explorer, F-Series, MKS, MKX, MKZ, MKT and Transit Connect; 20¢ per km for Expedition and Navigator, plus applicable taxes. Excess kilometrage charges subject to change (except in Quebec), see your local dealer for details. ^Until March 2, 2015, receive 0% APR purchase financing on new 2015 Focus, and Edge models for up to 36 months, and 2015 Flex, Escape, Mustang (excluding Shelby GT350), and 2014 Edge models for up to 60 months, and 2015 Fiesta, Fusion, and Taurus models for up to 72 months, and 2014 Focus SE Sedan models for up to 84 months, to qualified retail customers, on approved credit (OAC) from Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest interest rate. Example: $25,000 purchase financed at 0% APR for 36/60/72/84 months, monthly payment is $694.44/$416.66/$347.22/$297.62, cost of borrowing is $0 or APR of 0% and total to be repaid is $25,000. Down payment on purchase financing offers may be required based on approved credit from Ford Credit. *Until March 2, 2015, receive $1,500/$1,000/$1,500/$2,500/$1,500 in Delivery Allowances with the purchase or lease of a new 2014 Focus BEV/ 2014 Focus S Automatic/ 2014 Focus (excluding S and BEV)/ 2014 Focus S Manual/ 2014 Focus SE Sedan which, for cash purchase customers only, is combinable with $1,500/$1,500/$1,500/$1,500/$0 in Non-Stackable Cash for total Manufacturer Rebates of $3,000/$2,500/$3,000/$4,000/$1,500. Offers are not combinable with CPA, GPC, CFIP, Daily Rental Allowance and A/X/Z/D/F-Plan programs. Delivery allowances are not combinable with any fleet consumer incentives. ^non-stackable cash^ is available to cash purchase customers and customers not financing or leasing through Ford Credit. ^Non-stackable cash^ is not combinable with Ford Credit purchase financing or lease rates. ¥Based on 2007 – 2013 and YTD August 2014 R. L. Polk vehicle registrations data for Canada in the Large Premium Utility, Large Traditional Utility, Large Utility, Medium Premium Utility, Medium Utility, Small Premium Utility, and Small Utility segments. ‡Claim based on Ford's definition of single nameplate, which does not include rebadged vehicles, platform derivatives or other vehicle nameplate versions based on IHS Automotive Polk global new registrations for CY2013. ~Based on 2014 November YTD R. L. Polk retail and fleet vehicle registrations data for Canada in the midsize segment. ~Remember that even advanced technology cannot overcome the laws of physics. It's always possible to lose control of a vehicle due to inappropriate driver input for the conditions. ™Some mobile phones and some digital media players may not be fully compatible with SYNC®– check www.syncmyride.com for a listing of mobile phones, media players, and features supported. Driving while distracted can result in loss of vehicle control, accident and injury. 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SL AWD Premium model shown▲

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World Car of the Year finalists announced

Awards. BMW 2-Series Active Tourer, Ford Mustang, Jeep Renegade and more in the running

The shortlist for one of the auto world's most coveted awards has been revealed ahead of the awards ceremony in New York this April.

The 10 finalists that will compete for the title of 2015 World Car of the Year are the BMW 2 Series Active Tourer, the Citroën C4 Cactus, the Ford Mustang, the Hyundai Genesis, the Jeep Renegade, the Mazda2, the Mercedes-Benz C-Class, the MINI 5 door / MINI 4 door, the Nissan Qashqai, and the Volkswagen Passat.

The winner will be chosen by a jury of 75 international motoring journalists who have put each of the cars through their paces and the prize awarded on Thursday, April 2 at the New York International Auto Show.

For all categories except the Green Car award, the jury will simply vote for the winner via a secret ballot, whereas the winning green car will be selected in part by a panel of green technology experts who have set the final shortlist of candidates based on their environmentally friendly credentials.

The final five cars, which this year includes the BMW i8, Hyundai x35 / Tucson Fuel Cell, Kia Soul EV, Volvo XC90 T8 Twin Engine, and the Volkswagen Golf GTE, will be tested and reviewed by the main panel of judges and a winner selected.

As well as the overall winner, prizes will also be given in a number of other categories including Luxury Car of the Year, Performance Car of the Year and Green Car of the Year.

BMW must be hopeful of its chances at this year's ceremony as it has models nominated in every category.

AFP

BMW 2-Series Active Tourer. CONTRIBUTED

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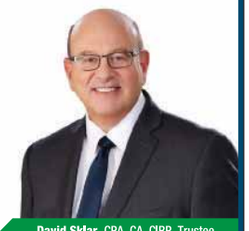

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→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Be more assertive about your opinions today, especially if you've kept your thoughts to yourself for a while. You don't have to shout but let others know what you believe.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Others will go out of their way to keep you quiet today, because the truth is not what they want to hear. If you find yourself at odds with powerful people, don't back down.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Be careful who you trust on the work front today because someone you think is a friend could be plotting to undermine your position.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Now that Mercury, planet of the mind, is moving in your favour again you won't have much trouble working out what needs to be done. Get your financial affairs in order.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You will hear something to your advantage over the next 24 hours. Don't be reluctant to believe it just because the source of the information has not always been reliable.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Partnerships and relationships will be under important stars as the month moves on, so clear the decks for action now.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Your latest project will be a success, despite recent setbacks. Don't worry that you have not made as much progress as you would have liked. There is still plenty of time to get it right.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You should find it easier now to get along with people who, for one reason or another, have been a bit stand-offish of late.

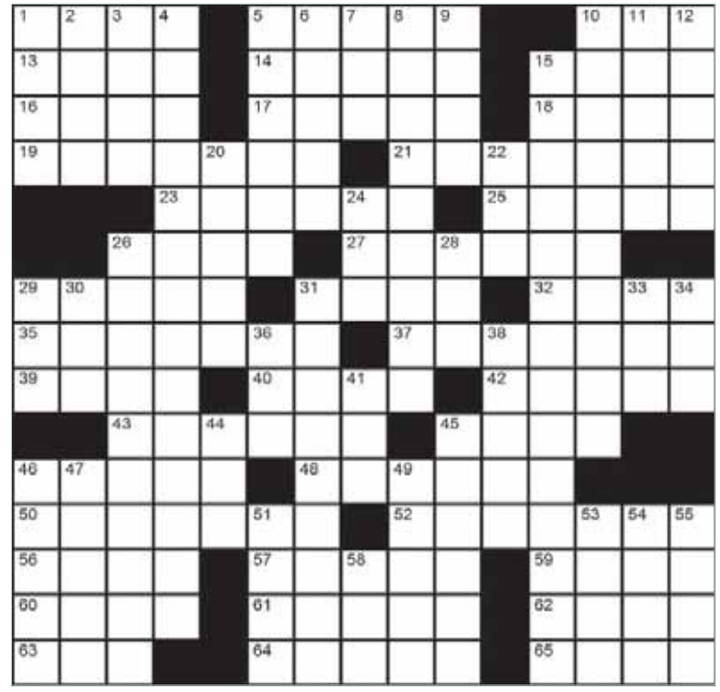
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
If you get the chance to do a good deed for a friend over the next two or three days don't wait to be asked, just wade in and put things right for them.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Something that has been tormenting you these past few weeks will no longer seem such a problem after today. You will also be delighted to discover that you are not as poor financially as you thought.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Something that has gone wrong on several occasions over the past two or three weeks will start going right again as of today, which will lead to an improved outlook.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You will learn something you find hard to believe today. It has been in plain sight for a while, which begs the question: How did you manage to miss it?

Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



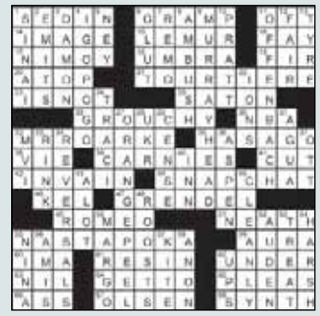
Across

1. Fort __ Hill (Historic coastal artillery base in Colwood on Vancouver Island)
5. Economy class
10. Football positions, briefly
13. Helm position
14. 'Straight'-meaning prefix
15. Mouse-like critter
16. Type size
17. Bargain
18. Garfield's sidekick
19. 1982 Dustin Hoffman movie
21. Discount shoe store
23. 1965 to 1971 sitcom, "__ Heroes"
25. At _ __ (With consequences)
26. Scientology founder, _. __ Hubbard
27. Violinist Mr. Perlman
29. Stream
31. Kimono accessories
32. Robert De Who?
35. April Wine's "Just __ You and Me"
37. Gambling spots
39. Betty __ (Vintage cartoon/comic)
40. Hide-and-go-__
42. The Cremation of Sam __ (Yukon-set poem by Robert Service)
43. Australian airline
45. Jiffs
46. "It's _ __ thing." (Definitely)
48. __ Friday (Office's tie-less day)
50. President's Choice product, Deluxe White __ Macaroni & Cheese Dinner
52. Condense, literature-style
56. "The Littlest __" (Canuck dog series)
57. Disturbs
59. Grub
60. Balanced
61. Basket fibre
62. Lilypad lazer
63. __ hall (Student hangout)
64. Strong point
65. Scottish 'since'

Down

1. Bewitched
2. Oil: Italian
3. Design style, with Art
4. It comes 'two minutes too late' in Alanis Morissette's "Ironic": 3 wds.
5. Jointly endorse on the dotted line
6. "Coffee __ __?" (Restaurant query)
7. Chowed chowder
8. Dried lips balm
9. Greeting in Granada!
10. Blackie and the __ __ (Hamilton band)
11. Walking on air feeling
12. View, Bible-style
15. Steep formations in Gros Morne National Park in Newfoundland: 2 wds.
20. District on Vancouver Island's southern tip
22. James Ingram/Michael McDonald hit: "__ Mo B There"
24. Bill
26. Scratch tickets overseer in Montreal, __-__
28. Half of Ms. Gabor
29. 'Start With Trust' is this org.'s slogan
30. Vintage auto
31. Crossword's beginning...: 2 wds.
33. Eggs of fish
34. 'Lact' suffix
36. Approx.
38. Besmirch
41. NASA-like org. headquartered in Paris
44. '90s sitcom, "__ and Stacey"
45. Group within a group
46. Sore one
47. Rudely push
49. Room: French
51. Diva's vocal
53. Ellen DeGeneres-voiced fish in "Finding Nemo" (2003)
54. Hooligan
55. Cutting-__
58. TGIF part

Yesterday's Crossword

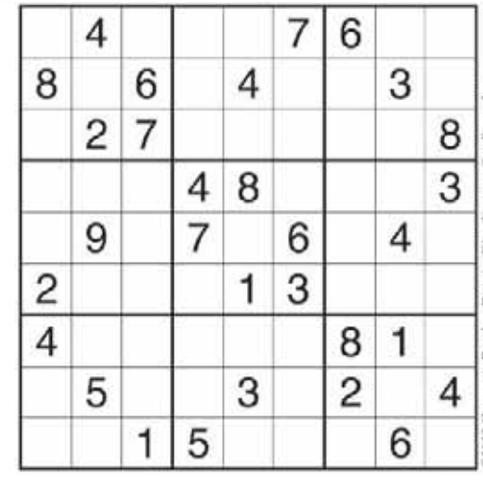


Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



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Yesterday's Sudoku

1	7	3	9	6	5	2	4	8
9	4	8	7	2	1	5	3	6
6	5	2	8	3	4	9	7	1
3	6	4	2	7	9	1	8	5
2	8	7	1	5	3	6	9	4
5	1	9	6	4	8	3	2	7
4	3	6	5	8	2	7	1	9
7	2	1	4	9	6	8	5	3
8	9	5	3	1	7	4	6	2

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OFFER ENDS MARCH 2ND

kia.ca ›

LEASING *REDESIGNED*

SHORTER TERMS, LOWER PAYMENTS AND MORE KM'S°

Rio4 SX with Navigation shown‡
Cash purchase price $22,514
HWY / CITY 100KM^ : 5.3L/7.3L

2015 RIO LX MT

$199 monthly lease from

0% APR for 36 months

$0 down payment¤

Offer includes delivery, destination, fees, a $500 Lease Credit* and a **20,000 km allowance**°. Offer based on new 2015 Rio LX MT (RO541F) with a selling price of $15,614. Excludes HST.

Forte SX shown‡
Cash purchase price $26,814
HWY / CITY 100KM^ : 5.3L/8.0L

2015 FORTE LX MT

$206 monthly lease from

0% APR for 36 months

$0 down payment¤

Offer includes delivery, destination, fees, a $500 Lease Credit* and a **20,000 km allowance**°. Offer based on new 2015 Forte LX MT (FO541F) with a selling price of $17,514. Excludes HST.

OR

1/2 PRICE PAYMENTS

WE PAY THE OTHER HALF§

"Half Price Payments" for up to one year available on financing offers only on 2015 Rio/Forte/Optima/Rondo/Sorento models

Sorento SX AT AWD 7-Seat shown‡
Cash purchase price $38,894
HWY / CITY 100KM^ : 9.0L/12.7L

2015 SORENTO LX AT

$39 weekly for 50 payments finance from

0% financing for up to 84 months

$0 down paymentΔ

$39 weekly payment includes $2,000 Half Price Payments Credit. Payments based on 2015 Sorento LX AT (SR75BF) 84-month financing. After 50 weekly payments at $39, weekly payments increase to $79^. Half Price Payments Credit may alternatively be taken as a one time lump sum payment.§ Excludes HST.

KIA

The Power to Surprise

KIA | Finance

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WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED
*5-year/100,000 km worry-free comprehensive warranty.

Kia's new Customer Friendly Pricing includes delivery and destination fees and all mandatory government levies. Prices do not include fuel-fill charges up to $100, dealer administration fees up to $399, licensing or applicable taxes.

VISIT KIA.CA FOR MORE

Offer(s) available on select new 2015 models through participating dealers to qualified retail customers who take delivery from February 3rd to March 2nd, 2015. Dealers may sell or lease for less. Some conditions apply. See dealer for complete details. Vehicles shown may include optional accessories and upgrades available at extra cost. All offers are subject to change without notice. All pricing includes delivery and destination fees up to $1,665, $5 OMVIC fee, $29 tire tax, other taxes, environmental fee, and $100 A/C charge (where applicable). Excludes licensing, registration, insurance, variable dealer administration fees (up to $399), fuel-fill charges up to $100, and down payment (if applicable and unless otherwise specified). Other lease and financing options also available. °Kia's February lease program features short-term 36-month leases, lower payments than our January 2015 program on equivalent models and trims, and 20,000 km allowances versus the available 16,000 km option. See kia.ca for details. ‡**Representative Leasing Example**: Lease offer available **on approved credit (OAC)**, on new 2015 Rio LX MT (RO541F)/Forte LX MT (FO541F) with a selling price of $15,614/$17,514 is based on monthly payments of $199/$206 and includes delivery and destination fees of $1,485, $5 OMVIC fee, $29 tire tax, and A/C tax ($100, where applicable) for 36 months at 0% with a $0 down payment/equivalent trade, $0 security deposit and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Offer also includes a lease credit of $500. Total lease obligation is $7,168/$7,400 with the option to purchase at the end of the term for $7,963/$9,633. Lease has 20,000 km/yr allowance (other packages available and $0.12/km for excess kilometres). Other taxes, registration, insurance and licensing fees are excluded. $395 lease disposition fee may be due at the time of lease return depending on the terms of the lease contract. Offer ends March 2nd, 2015. *Lease credit for 2015 Rio LX MT (RO541F)/2015 Forte LX MT (FO541F) is $500 and available on lease offer only. Lease credit varies by model/trim and is deducted from the negotiated selling price before taxes. §Up to **"Half Price Payments"** for up to one year ("Offer") is only applicable on financing offers on 2015 Rio/Forte/Optima/Sorento/Rondo models. On approved credit, from a participating dealer in Canada between February 3rd to March 2nd, 2015. The Offer consists of a loan credit (Up to "Half Price Payments Credit") that will range from $500 to $3,250 depending on model/trim. Customers can choose to take the full amount of the applicable Half Price Payments Credit as a one (1) time incentive that will be deducted from the negotiated price of the vehicle before taxes. Alternatively, customers can choose the up to "Half Price Payments" option and have their financing payments reduced (before taxes) by 50% until such time as the entire amount of the applicable Half Price Payments Credit has been exhausted. This may take between 10 weeks and 69 weeks depending on model/trim and the amount of the applicable Half Price Payments Credit. After the entire amount of the applicable Half Price Payments Credit has been exhausted, the customer will be required to pay the full amount of all regularly scheduled finance payments over the remaining term of the contract. Vehicle trade-in amounts and down payments are not calculated in the advertised up to "Half Price Payments". See dealer for complete details. Δ**Representative financing example**: 0% financing offer for up to 84 months available to qualified retail customers on approved credit for the new 2015 Sorento LX AT (SR75BF) with a purchase price of $28,794 financed at 0% for 84-month period with $0 down payment equals 50 reduced weekly payments of $39 followed by weekly payments of $79. Cost includes delivery and destination fees of up to $1,665, $5 OMVIC fee, tire tax of $29, $100 A/C charge (where applicable). Includes $2,000 "Half Price Payments" credit. Cost of borrowing is $0 and total obligation is $26,794. "Half Price Payment" Incentive varies by model and trim level and may be taken as a lump sum or to reduce the financed amount. Offer ends March 2nd, 2015. ‡Model shown Manufacturer Suggested Retail Price for 2015 Forte SX (FO748F)/2015 Rio4 SX with Navigation (RO749F)/2015 Sorento SX V6 AWD (SR75XF) is $26,695/$22,395/$42,095. ^ Highway/city fuel consumption is based on the 2015 Rio LX+ ECO AT/2015 Forte 1.8L MPI 4-cyl MT/2015 Sorento LX 2.4L GDI 4-cyl AT. These updated estimates are based on the Government of Canada's approved criteria and testing methods. Refer to the *EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide*. Your actual fuel consumption will vary based on driving habits and other factors. Information in this advertisement is believed to be accurate at the time of printing. For more information on our 5-year warranty coverage, visit kia.ca or call us at 1-877-542-2886. Kia is a trademark of Kia Motors Corporation.